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Evaluation

# Characteristics of Food Stamp Households

Summer 1986



FOOD CONSUMPTION

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

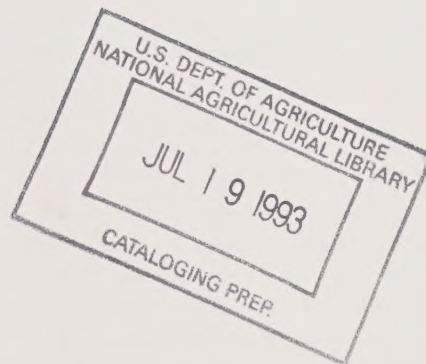


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CHARACTERISTICS OF  
FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

SUMMER 1986



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The Food and Nutrition Service has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of the most recent survey of over 7,100 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: a description of the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp households in the summer of 1986 and an examination of changes in these circumstances since summer 1985.<sup>1</sup>

Until February 1983, characteristic reports had been based on a sample of households selected from the Food Stamp Quality Control (QC) system. The QC system was an ongoing review of food stamp households to determine if eligibility and benefits had been calculated properly or if a household's participation was correctly denied or terminated. The February 1983 Food Stamp Characteristics report was the first based on a sample from the redesigned Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS). The summer 1985 and summer 1986 samples which are used for this report are also based on IQCS. Like its predecessor, the IQCS is the basic accountability measure of Food Stamp Program (FSP) operations. The IQCS differs from QC in two ways: it integrates the QC systems of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Medicaid, and the Food Stamp Program, and it relies on a revised form to collect data. These changes make the February 1983 and subsequent reports not completely comparable with previous studies.

Additional changes have occurred in this report due to changes in the reporting form. Starting in October 1985, the QC review form was revised to allow for a more precise reporting of income codes. Now, there are more household income types and different composites than in 1985. New income sources in 1986 include income from contributions, deemed income, and educational grants. Because of this form revision, comparability to prior reports is sacrificed to a small degree.

Slightly under 19.4 million people a month received food stamp benefits in the United States in the summer of 1986. At the time these data were gathered:

- Nearly 93 percent of all food stamp households had a total gross income that was equal to or less than the official poverty guidelines; about 39 percent were below half the poverty line.

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<sup>1</sup>For this 1986 report (as for the 1985 report), summer refers to the average of data for July and August. Household samples were taken from both July and August to maintain an adequate sample size given reduced annual State sample sizes.

- About 38 percent of all food stamp households also received benefits under AFDC. Twenty-one percent had earned income. Over 20 percent of all households received Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits; over 18 percent received Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- The average deduction from gross income was \$203 per month. The most frequent deduction--other than the standard deduction available to every household--was for excess shelter costs, claimed by nearly 72 percent of all food stamp households.
- The average monthly food stamp benefit was \$120 per household or \$44 per person.
- About 19 percent of all food stamp households had no net income after taking the allowable deductions from gross income, and thus received the maximum allowable benefit.
- When food stamp benefits were counted along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below half the poverty line fell from 39 percent to 14 percent.
- The average food stamp household included 2.7 people, but there was substantial variation among different household types. For instance, an average of 3.9 people constituted a household where school-age children were present, while households with elderly members averaged only 1.5 persons. Fifty-two percent of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.
- Seventy-two percent of the heads of food stamp households were women.
- About 51 percent of all the people participating in the FSP were children (less than 18 years old). Another 8 percent were elderly (60 years old or older).
- Twenty percent of all food stamp households had at least one elderly member. Ninety percent of all elderly participants lived alone or with one other person (usually elderly as well).

A comparison of survey data from summer 1985 with the results of the current survey shows that:

- Average monthly gross income increased from \$398 per household in summer 1985 to \$417 in the summer of 1986.
- The percentage of households with gross income below half the poverty line decreased slightly from 40 to 39 percent.

- The average value of total deductions increased from \$191 to \$203, and average net income also increased from \$226 to \$232.
- The average monthly food stamp benefit increased from \$116 to \$120 per household. Average benefits increased despite an increase in average net income due to the effects of the cost of living adjustment to benefits and a slight change in the distribution of household size toward larger households.



## INTRODUCTION

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is a nationwide program which helps low-income families and individuals buy the foods they need to maintain a nutritious diet. This assistance is in the form of coupons that can be redeemed for food in authorized food stores, thus increasing the purchasing power of low-income households. The program is authorized by Congress, administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and operated by State welfare agencies and their local offices. In an average month, about 19.4 million people received food stamp benefits during fiscal year 1986 at a total program cost of \$11.7 billion. During fiscal year 1985, the average monthly participation in FSP comprised 19.9 million people.

Since food stamp benefits add to the resources available to low-income households, the FSP can be considered part of the Federal income maintenance system. It is distinct from other income maintenance programs in two important ways. First, it is designed to provide nutritional assistance to low-income households. Thus, program benefits--the food stamps--can be used only to buy food. Second, the program is distinguished by the absence of categorical restrictions on eligibility and participation. Unlike Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), for example, program eligibility is not limited to specific types of people (for example, parents with dependent children, the elderly, or the disabled). Instead, the FSP is available to all who meet the income and resource standards set by Congress. Thus, program participants are likely to represent a broad spectrum of the low-income population.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of a survey of over 7,100 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: a description of the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp participants in the summer of 1986 and a brief examination of changes in these circumstances from summer 1985.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the structure, size, and economic context of the Food Stamp Program in the summer of 1986. Chapter 2 describes summer 1986 food stamp household circumstances in some detail while Chapter 3 looks at trends in household circumstances and caseload composition from 1985 to 1986 by comparing the summer 1985 sample with summer 1986. Chapter 4 presents an extensive set of detailed tabulations of household characteristics in the summer of 1986. The appendixes to this report contain supplemental tables and a brief description of the sample design.

## CHAPTER 1: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The number and characteristics of households participating in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) tend to vary somewhat over time. Several factors contribute to this shifting. Legislative changes, such as in eligibility requirements, are partially responsible. The economic status of the nation as well as underlying demographic trends may also affect the program's level of participation and characteristics of participating households. This chapter provides some background on the general circumstances of the FSP in the summer of 1986.

The chapter begins with an overview of program changes between 1985 and 1986 and a review of eligibility requirements. This is followed by a brief summary of total program participation and costs as well as economic conditions in fiscal year 1986.

### Program Changes Since Last Year

Both eligibility requirements and aggregate benefit levels were affected by several program changes since summer 1985. First, the treatment of the excess shelter and dependent care deductions was altered. In summer 1985, there was a maximum amount that could be claimed for the combination of these two individual deductions. This single maximum was replaced with separate caps for both types of deductions. Households could claim up to a maximum of \$160 for the dependent care deduction (\$147 for households with elderly or disabled members).<sup>1</sup> The excess shelter deduction limit was \$147. As before, elderly and disabled households were exempted from this limit. Second, the rate of the earned income deduction was increased from 18 to 20 percent. Third, in April 1986, four Thrifty Food Plans for different geographical areas in Alaska (Rural I, Rural II, Urban, and Nenana) were established, replacing the prior two separate categories (Rural and Urban). This adjustment completes the changes in Alaska for their Thrifty Food Plans that were started in 1984. Fourth, the definition of a disabled person was expanded to include individuals receiving disability retirement payments from a government agency for a disability considered permanent. Finally, there were changes in the countable resources limits for some households. Effective May 1, 1986, the single elderly households' limit was increased from \$1,500 to \$3,000. In addition, the limit for nonelderly households was also adjusted from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Additional program changes that had less significant impacts on program eligibility and benefits can be found in the Food Security Act of 1985.

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<sup>1</sup>See appendix C for additional details on the dependent care deduction maximum.

## Program Eligibility Requirements

The Food Stamp Act defines the group of people who will comprise a household for food stamp purposes and sets uniform criteria for their eligibility. These included a gross and net income limit, a resource limit, and a variety of nonfinancial criteria. Each of these is discussed briefly below.

### **Income Eligibility Standards**

To be eligible for food stamps, the gross monthly income of most households had to be at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$14,304 annually for a family of four) and their net income had to be at or below 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (\$11,004 annually for a family of four).<sup>2</sup> Households with an elderly or disabled member were subject only to the net income test described below. Gross income included all cash payments to the households with the exception of a few specific types excluded by law or regulation (such as loans, nonrecurring lump sum payments, and reimbursement of certain expenses). The following deductions were then subtracted from the household's gross monthly income to determine its net income:

- A standard deduction adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. The standard deduction was \$98 in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia in the summer of 1986.
- An earned income deduction for working households equal to 20 percent of the combined earnings of household members.
- A dependent care deduction for the expenses involved in caring for children or other dependents while household members worked or sought employment. The maximum value which could be claimed under this deduction was capped at \$160.
- An excess shelter deduction for those shelter costs (such as rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, property taxes, and insurance) that exceeded 50 percent of the household's income remaining after all other deductions were taken. The limit in the summer of 1986 for households living in the 48 contiguous

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<sup>2</sup>Each year in July, the income eligibility standards are updated. The figures supplied in this text were effective from July 1, 1986 through June 30, 1987 for all States and territories except Alaska and Hawaii, which have higher standards. See appendix B for the full array of monthly standards.



States and the District of Columbia was \$147.<sup>3</sup> The limit is adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. Households with an elderly (age 60 or older) or disabled member were exempted from this limit--they were entitled to subtract the full value of all shelter costs greater than 50 percent of their adjusted income.

- A special medical deduction limited to households with an elderly or disabled member. These households could deduct all medical costs exceeding \$35 incurred by the elderly or disabled person. Medical expenses reimbursed by insurance or government programs were not deductible. If a household contained more than one disabled or elderly person, then it could deduct the combined medical expenses (for those disabled or elderly persons) that exceeded the elderly/disabled's initial \$35 charge.

After subtracting these allowable deductions from gross income, the household's net income was then compared to a table of monthly income limits based on the official poverty guidelines published by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). These guidelines vary by household size and are updated annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. The Food Stamp Program income limits are adjusted each July to correspond to the most recent DHHS poverty guidelines. In the summer of 1986, a four-person family living in one of the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam, or the Virgin Islands could qualify for the program with a net monthly income of \$917 and a gross monthly income of \$1,192, or less.<sup>4</sup>

### Resource Eligibility Standards

The value of a household's assets is also accounted for in determining program eligibility. Most households were permitted up to \$2,000 in countable resources. Households with two or more people, at least one person age 60 years or older, were allowed up to \$3,000. Countable resources included cash on hand and assets which could easily be converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. Assets also included nonliquid assets, but the family home and lot, one family vehicle if under \$4,500 in value, and tools of a trade or business property used in earning the family income were not counted in determining eligibility.

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<sup>3</sup>Both the standard deduction and ceiling on the value of the excess shelter deductions in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands were adjusted to reflect price differences from the mainland. See appendix C for the value of each in the summer of 1986.

<sup>4</sup>Separate income limits were computed for Alaska and Hawaii. See appendix B for the full array for each household size.

## Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards

People could qualify for benefits only as part of a "food stamp household." The household consists of those persons whose income and resources are summed to determine program eligibility and benefits. Many means-tested assistance programs define the household in slightly different ways, largely to target benefits to particular individuals--such as the elderly or children. In many of its surveys and income statistics, the Bureau of the Census defines a household to include all persons living in a single dwelling. The food stamp household is somewhat less inclusive than the Census Bureau concept.

In general terms, a food stamp household consisted of an individual who lived alone or who lived with others but usually purchased and prepared food separately; and groups of individuals who lived, purchased food, and prepared meals together. A parent or parents, under 60 years of age and living with their children, were counted as a single household regardless of their food preparation practices. Also, an individual 60 years or older (and spouse) who was unable to purchase and prepare meals due to a permanent disability may constitute a separate household provided such individual lived with others whose income did not exceed 165 percent of the poverty level. Some restrictions were placed on the participation of aliens, students, strikers, and residents of institutions. The income, resources, and deductible expenses of all persons in the food stamp household were counted to determine the household's eligibility for benefits.

The FSP included several provisions to encourage able-bodied participants to seek and hold jobs. With certain exceptions, physically and mentally fit food stamp participants had to register for and accept suitable employment. The exceptions to this work registration requirement included:

- People under 18 or over 60 years of age.
- Physically or mentally disabled people.
- People participating in AFDC's work incentive program (WIN).
- Caretakers of dependent children less than 6 years old or incapacitated adults.
- People receiving unemployment compensation.
- Participants in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs.
- People who were working at least 30 hours per week.
- Selected types of students.

An active job search was required of some work registrants. Furthermore, applicant households whose primary wage earner voluntarily quit a job without good cause were made ineligible for 90 days.

### Benefit Computation

The maximum amount of food stamps a household could receive was equal to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) in June 1985, adjusted for household size. The maximum allotments are revised periodically to reflect changes in the cost of foods included in the TFP. The maximum allotment for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia was \$268 per month beginning October 1, 1985, and remaining effective through September 30, 1986.<sup>5</sup>

The food stamp benefit issued to each household was based on the number of people in the household and the amount of net income available after subtracting the allowable deductions. Monthly benefits were equal to the maximum coupon allotment for that household less 30 percent of its net income. Benefits were prorated to the date of application during the initial month of participation. All one- and two-person households that qualified for the program, however, were guaranteed a minimum benefit of at least \$10 per month (except the initial month on the program).

### Food Stamp Program Participation and Costs

Participation in the FSP declined slightly between fiscal years 1981 and 1982. By late 1982, participation had begun to increase, reaching an historic high level of 22.6 million persons in March 1983. This peak was followed by a relatively steady decline in the number of food stamp recipients. With the exception of seasonal increases during winter months, this decrease in participation continued through September 1986, at which point 19.1 million persons were participating in the FSP (see figure 1). This was the lowest level of participation in the 50 States and District of Columbia since January 1980. Between fiscal years 1985 and 1986, the average monthly participation declined 2.5 percent from 19.9 to 19.4 million persons.

The reduced number of participants and the higher allotments combined to keep total program costs virtually unchanged between

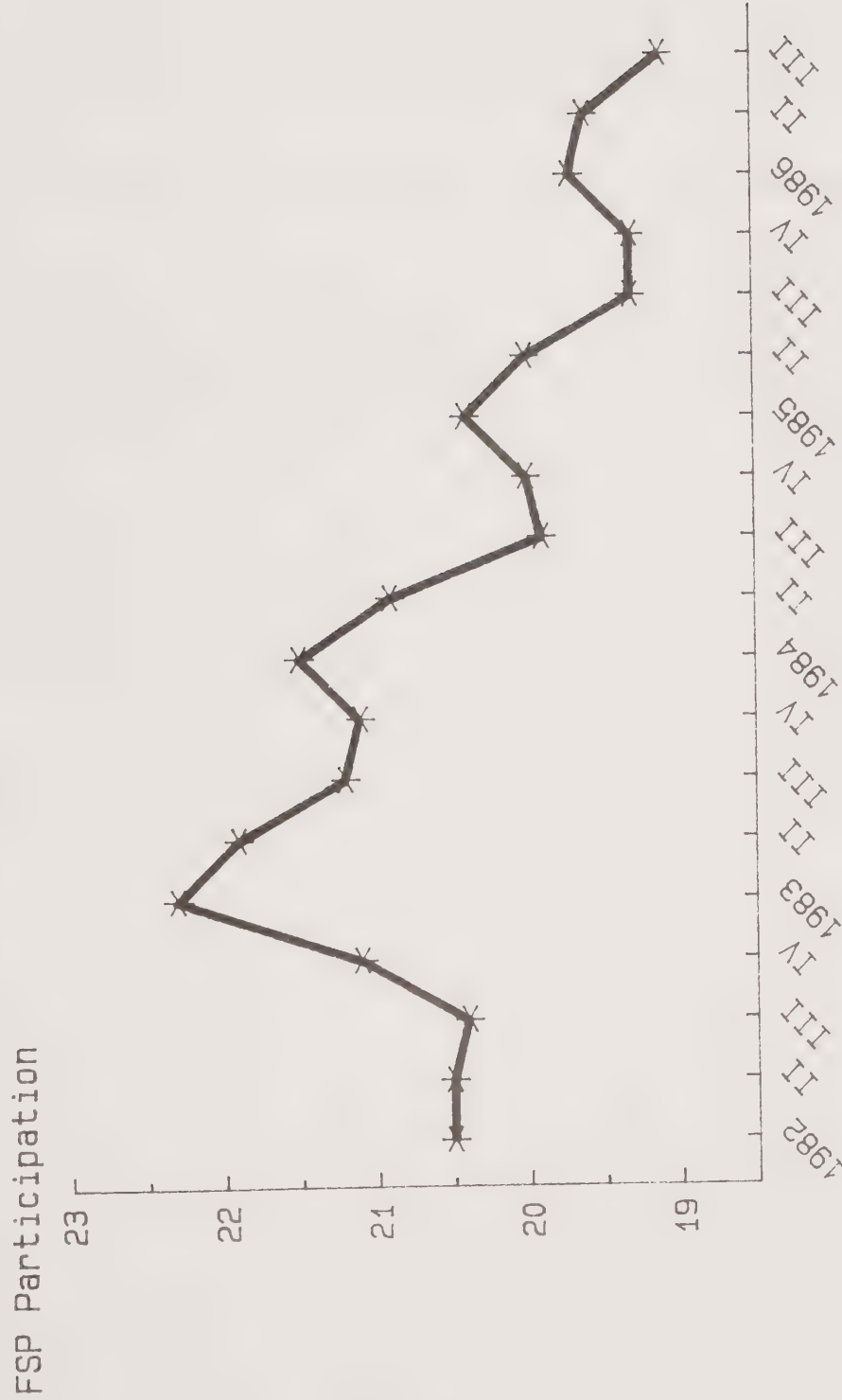
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<sup>5</sup>Separate plans were developed for selected outlying areas. The maximum coupon allotment for each household size in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia, and outlying areas is shown in appendix D.



Figure 1

# Food Stamp Program Average Monthly Participation Calendar Year 1982-1986, by Quarter (In Millions)



CY 1982-1986

Source: FSP Statistical Summary of Operations

Note: Participation in Puerto Rico is Excluded.

fiscal years 1985 and 1986. The maximum allotment for a family of four increased 1.5 percent, from \$264 to \$268, between the two fiscal years. Total Federal costs in fiscal year 1986 were \$11.7 billion, of which \$10.6 billion were issued in benefits. The amount of food stamp benefits issued in fiscal year 1986 decreased by 0.1 percent, or \$91 million from fiscal year 1985. Other program costs, which include State administrative expenses, increased \$118 million from \$973 million in fiscal year 1985 to \$1,091 million in fiscal year 1986.

In the summer of 1986, average monthly program costs were about \$954 million of which \$860 million were in the form of benefits. Program data additionally indicate that per person benefits in the summer of 1986 averaged \$45.12.

### An Overview of Economic Developments Through 1986

The recession, which began in 1981 and continued through early 1983, was followed by a very rapid, strong recovery beginning in late 1983 (see table 1). The unemployment rate declined from a high of 10.7 percent in November and December 1982 to 8.2 percent in December 1983. By August 1986, the unemployment rate had dropped to 6.8 percent (see figure 2). The poverty rate increased from 1982 to 1983, but then declined from 15.2 percent in 1983 to 13.6 percent in 1986 (see table 2).

Inflation dropped significantly from 1982 to 1983 and continued to decline through 1986 (see table 1). The cost of the TFP for a family of four increased 1.5 percent from fiscal year 1985 to 1986 compared to an 11 percent increase from September 1979 to September 1980 and an average increase of 2.3 percent for 1982 through 1986.

Table 1--Major economic indicators, 1982-1986  
(average annual rates in percent)

Economic indicator	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Real GNP increase <sup>a,b</sup>	-2.5%	3.6%	6.4%	2.7%	2.3%
Productivity increase <sup>a,c</sup>	-0.6	3.3	1.8	0.5	1.6
Unemployment rate <sup>d</sup>	9.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	6.9
Inflation rate <sup>a,e</sup>	6.4	3.9	3.8	3.3	2.9
Interest rates <sup>f</sup>	13.8	12.0	12.7	11.4	9.0

<sup>a</sup>Data for the national income product accounts reflect the comprehensive revision (from the prior 1972 base to the 1982 base) made by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

<sup>b</sup>Table B-2.

<sup>c</sup>Change in output per hour, nonfarm business sector, table B-44.

<sup>d</sup>All civilian workers, table B-31.

<sup>e</sup>Change in implicit price deflator for gross national product, table B-3.

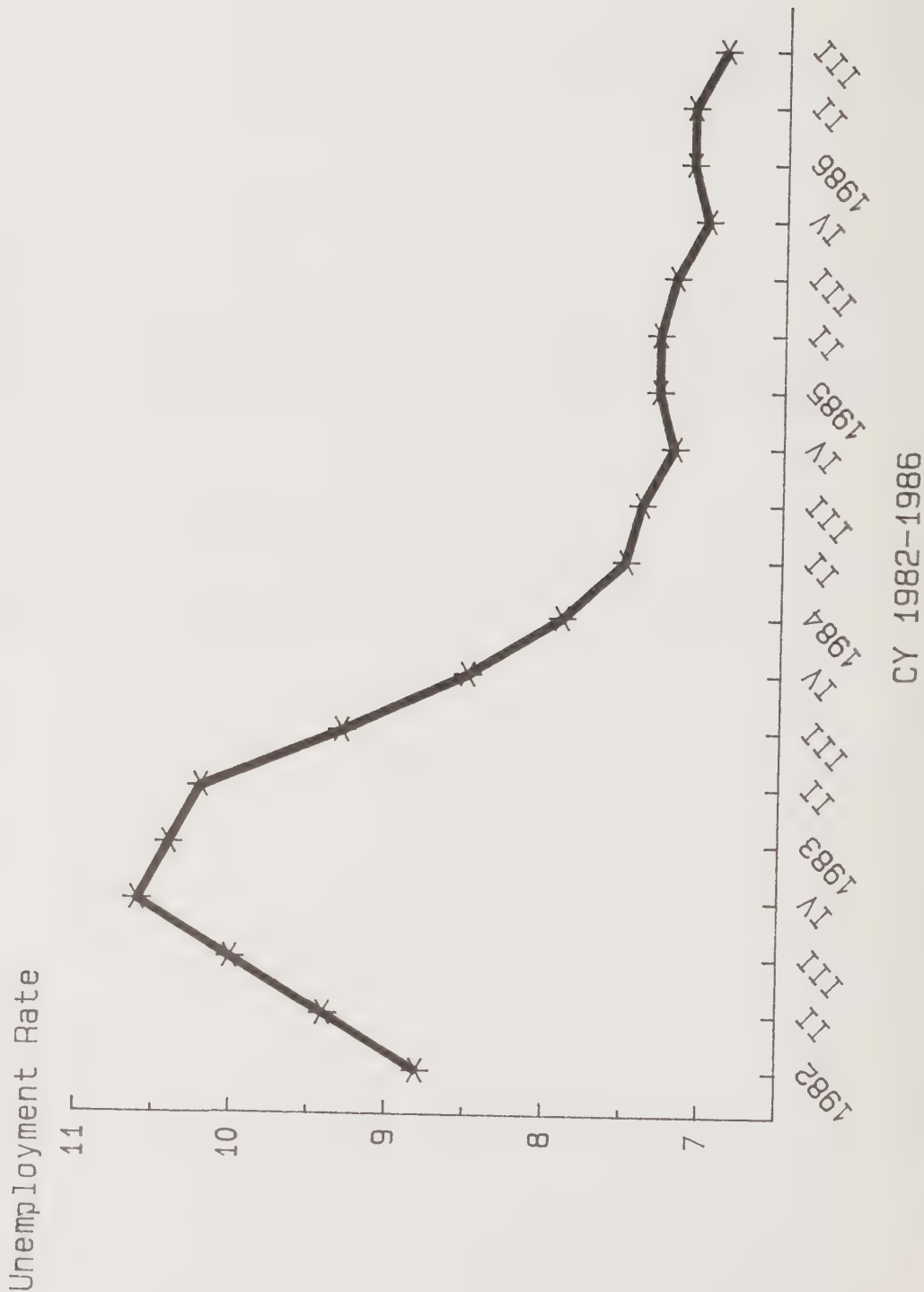
<sup>f</sup>Corporate Aaa bond yield, table B-68.

Source: "Economic Report of the President," January 1987.



Figure 2

# Unemployment Rate for All Civilians Quarterly Average Calendar Years 1982-1986 (Data Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: BLS

Table 2--Poverty status of all persons, 1982-86  
(numbers in thousands)

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Number below 100 percent of poverty	34,398	35,303	33,700	33,064	32,370
Percentage of total population	15.0%	15.2%	14.4%	14.0%	13.6%
Number below 125 percent of poverty	46,520	47,150	45,288	44,166	43,486
Percentage of total population	20.3%	20.3%	19.4%	18.7%	18.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 157, "Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1986 (Advance Data from the March 1987 Current Population Survey)," Washington, D.C., 1987.

## CHAPTER 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

Slightly under 19.4 million people in 7.1 million households received food stamp benefits in the summer of 1986.<sup>1</sup> This chapter addresses basic questions about the characteristics of these households by looking at their income, deductions, benefits, assets, and household composition in some detail. The results presented here portray a cross section of the program's caseload. Most of the information deals with characteristics of the entire food stamp household. In some cases, however, characteristics of individual participants are also presented. Additional information about each topic can be found in the detailed tabulations of Chapter 4.

### Gross Monthly Income

The average gross income of all participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia was \$417 per month.<sup>2</sup> Six percent reported no gross income in the summer of 1986; about 55 percent reported a monthly income of less than \$400 (see figure 3). Only 19 percent had monthly gross income of \$600 or more.

The distribution of gross income was heavily influenced by the large number of small households in the program. Over 46 percent of all the households with income below \$400 were single-person households. About 81 percent of all single-person households had an income below \$400, compared to just 17 percent of those with at least six members. There were several reasons for this pattern. The food stamp income eligibility limits vary with household size, making small households ineligible at lower incomes than large households. Transfer payments from other welfare programs also tend to increase with household size.

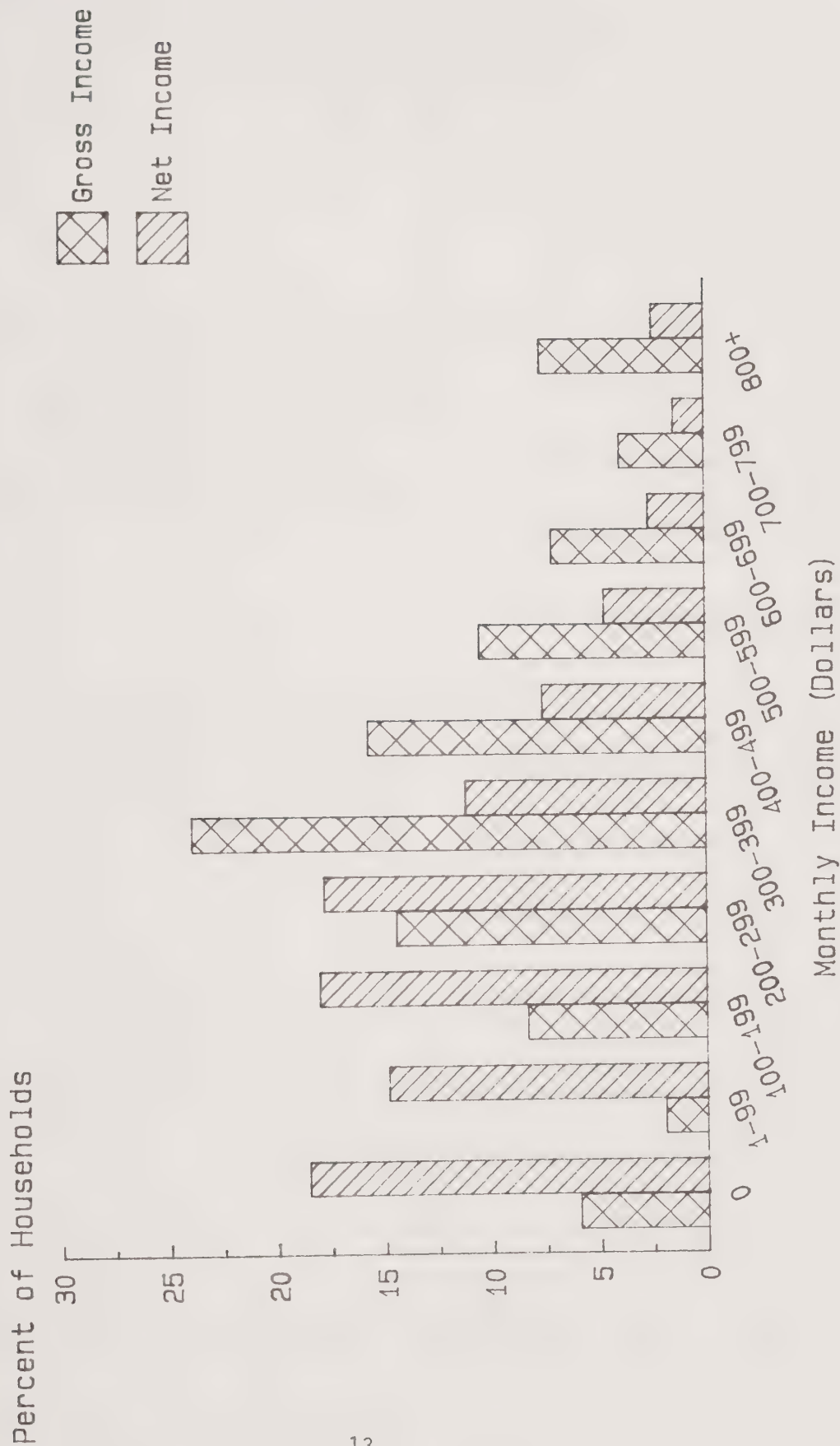
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<sup>1</sup>The information reported here and in Chapter 4 is limited to summer 1986 food stamp participants in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. There were an additional 47,000 participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico, which until July 1982 had participated in the Food Stamp Program (FSP), served approximately 1.5 million participants through its Nutrition Assistance Program. On a smaller scale, the Northern Mariana Islands also participate in a block grant program.

<sup>2</sup>It should be noted that the statistics reported in this and subsequent sections are based on information recorded in food stamp casefiles by State eligibility workers. These figures have not been corrected for possible underreporting or nonreporting of income.



Figure 3  
Distribution of FSP Households by Gross  
and Net Incomes Summer 1986



Source: July/August 1986 IQCS

One way to account for the influence of household size on gross income is to examine the status of food stamp households with respect to the official definition of poverty.<sup>3</sup> As shown in table 3, about 93 percent of all food stamp households had total income that was less than or equal to the poverty line. This includes about 39 percent who had total income at or below half the poverty guidelines.

### NET MONTHLY INCOME

A household's net income was determined by subtracting the deductions described earlier from its gross monthly income. The level of net income then determined the household's eligibility and monthly benefit. Average net income was \$232 per month in the summer of 1986. About 19 percent of all households had no net income after subtracting the allowable deductions from their gross income. These households received the maximum coupon allotment. Seven out of 10 participating households had net income less than \$300 per month and over 93 percent had net income under \$600 a month.

### SOURCES OF INCOME

As table 4 shows, a large number of food stamp households also received cash benefits from at least one of the major income transfer programs (AFDC, Social Security, and SSI). At the same time, there was a substantial number of households that supplemented limited earnings with food stamp benefits. About 79 percent of all households had income from at least one of these sources.

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<sup>3</sup>As noted above, the definition of poverty is adjusted for household size. The HHS-published poverty guidelines used by the FSP in the summer of 1986 are shown in appendix A. A word of caution is in order when comparisons are made to the poverty population defined by the Bureau of the Census. Census counts households as poor if their annual cash income falls below the poverty guidelines. In contrast, households were eligible for food stamps if their monthly cash income fell below the program's income limits. Since household income may vary from month to month, a household may be eligible for food stamps in one month, but ineligible the next. Therefore, some households eligible for food stamps for one or more months may have annual incomes above the poverty lines. On the other hand, households with assets worth more than the food stamp asset limit could be ineligible for food stamps in any month, although their monthly and annual incomes were well below the poverty line.

Table 3--Poverty status of food stamp households, summer 1986

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Percent of all households	Cumulative percent
50% or less	39.3%	39.3%
51% to 100%	54.1	93.4
101% to 130%	6.3	99.7
131% or more	0.3	100.0
Number of households (in thousands)	7,101	7,101

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.



Table 4--Major sources of income among food stamp households  
summer 1986

(number in thousands)

Source of income	<u>Food stamp households</u>	
	Number	Percent <sup>a</sup>
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	2,697	38.0%
Earnings <sup>b</sup>	1,494	21.0
Social Security and Railroad Retirement	1,425	20.1
Supplemental Security Income	1,282	18.1
Total	7,101	

<sup>a</sup>Since households may have income from more than one source, these percentages are not additive.

<sup>b</sup>Includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

## **Aid to Families with Dependent Children**

Thirty-eight percent of all food stamp households received AFDC benefits. On average, these households supplemented \$85 from other sources with a \$372 AFDC payment, for a total gross income of \$457 per month. Two-thirds of these households, however, had no income other than the AFDC grant. About 11 percent had earnings, 6 percent also received Federal SSI payments, and 5 percent received Social Security and/or Railroad Retirement benefits.

## **Earned Income**

About 21 percent of all food stamp households reported income from salaries, wages, and self-employment. Households with earned income were generally larger and had substantially higher income than nonearners. The average household size for those with earnings was 3.7 people. For these households, average earnings amounted to \$486 out of an average gross income of \$609 per month. Fifty-nine percent of these households reported no income other than earnings. Approximately 20 percent received AFDC in addition to their earnings.

## **Social Security and Railroad Retirement**

Over 20 percent of all food stamp households received income from Social Security and/or Railroad Retirement benefits averaging about \$336 per month. About 32 percent of these households had no other source of income; about 45 percent also received Federal SSI payments.

## **Supplemental Security Income**

Over 18 percent of all food stamp households received SSI payments. The average Federal SSI benefit was \$231 per month. This was the only source of income for 31 percent of these households. About one-half received SSI in combination with Social Security and/or Railroad Retirement benefits.

## **Deductions From Gross Income**

The Food Stamp Act provides for deductions from gross income when determining household eligibility and benefits. In the summer of 1986, these included a standard deduction for all households, earned income and dependent care deductions for the employed households, a medical deduction for the elderly and disabled, and an excess shelter expense deduction. Each of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions had limits on the size of the deduction available to households. Households could

claim up to a maximum of \$160 for the dependent care deduction.<sup>4</sup> The excess shelter deduction limit was \$147, with elderly and disabled households exempted from this limit.

Almost 80 percent of all food stamp households claimed at least one deduction other than the standard. The average deduction to which households were entitled, including the value of the standard, was \$203 per month. The average entitlement for all deductions other than the standard was \$105 per month (see figure 4). A distinction should be made between a household's deduction entitlement and the amount actually used to compute food stamp benefits. The entitlement is the deduction that a household would receive on the basis of its earned income, dependent care costs, shelter costs, and medical expenses if the total of these allowable deductions was less than its gross income. Households with total deductions greater than their gross income "used" only a portion of their deduction entitlement since any negative net income were treated as zero in computing benefits. The value of the deductions actually used in computing household benefits in the summer of 1986, that is, the difference between average gross and average net income, was \$185, or 91 percent of the average total deduction entitlement of food stamp households.

The frequency with which the different deductions were claimed varied considerably. The excess shelter deduction was claimed by about 72 percent of all participating households. The average value of the shelter deduction among those who claimed it was \$112 per month. About 25 percent of all food stamp households (and over 34 percent of those claiming the excess shelter deduction) were affected by the ceiling placed on the value of the excess shelter deduction. Over 7 percent of all food stamp households (18 percent of the elderly households) who were exempted from the ceiling claimed a deduction above the cap. The average shelter deduction among these households was \$231 per month.

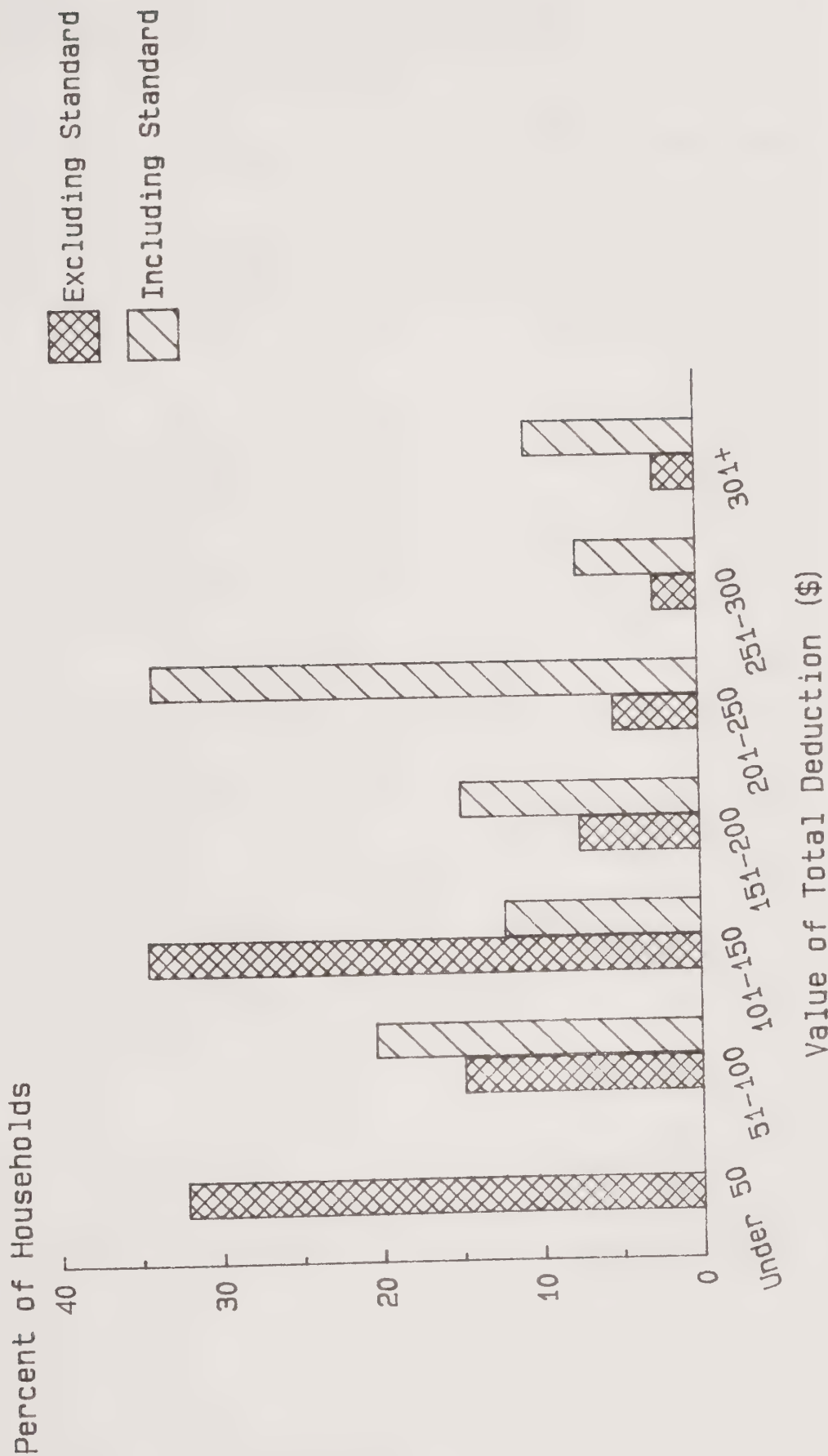
Twenty-one percent of all food stamp households claimed the earned income deduction, averaging \$97 per month. When earned income was present, it was typically present in substantial amounts. Thus, many households with earnings were able to claim sizeable deductions: 45 percent were entitled to a deduction of more than \$100 a month.

Both the dependent care and medical deductions were used relatively infrequently. For those who were able to claim one or the other, however, they provided a substantial deduction from gross income. The dependent care deduction was claimed by about 2 percent of all participating households and by over 8 percent of those with earned income. Among those with the medical deduction, the

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<sup>4</sup>See appendix C for additional details on the dependent care deduction maximum.

Figure 4  
Distribution of Food Stamp Households  
by Value of All Deductions



Source: July/August 1986 IQCS



deduction was claimed by over 3 percent of all participating households and by over 15 percent of all households with elderly members. The average claim among those with the deduction was \$75.

### **Food Stamp Benefits**

The average summer monthly food stamp benefit reported in this survey was \$120 per household (or about \$44.02 per person).<sup>5</sup> One-half of all participating households received benefits between \$50 and \$150 per month. Over 8 percent of the households received the minimum \$10 benefit guaranteed to one- and two-person households.

### **Targeting Benefits to the Most Needy**

The FSP is designed to target those households most in need. Households which are categorized in separate poverty brackets will not receive the same amount of benefits. In table 5, the percentage of households in the 26-50 percent and the 51-75 percent ranges are approximately the same. Yet the poorer of these two groups received a greater percentage of all benefits issued: 39 percent versus 27 percent.

### **Effect on Poverty Status**

The previous discussion of gross income levels showed that food stamp participants generally fell well below the poverty line. The official definition of poverty is based on the cash income of household members before taxes and after cash transfer payments, but it does not include the value of in-kind benefits such as food stamps. If the FSP is viewed in the general context of income maintenance programs, however, it can be argued that food stamp benefits, which increase a household's total resources, should be included in any measurement of a household's poverty status. In this way, the effect of food stamp benefits in reducing the number of households in poverty can also be measured. Table 6 compares the poverty status of participating households before the transfer of food stamp benefits, based on

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<sup>5</sup>In comparison to the sample survey data reported here, Food Stamp Program administrative data for 1986 show an average summer monthly benefit of \$121.15 per household and \$45.12 per person (Management Information Data, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, October 5, 1987).

Table 5--Distribution of households and benefits by poverty line  
summer 1986

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Percent of all households	Percent of all benefits
25% or less	12.5	18.7
26 - 50%	26.8	39.3
51 - 75%	27.3	27.1
76 - 100%	26.8	12.9
101 - 125%	6.1	2.0
126 - 130%	0.2	0.0
131 - 150%	0.2	0.0
151% or more	0.1	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 6--Effect of food stamp benefits on poverty status of food stamp households,  
summer 1986

Income as a percent of poverty	Distribution of households in relation to poverty line		Change in percentage points
	Based on cash only	Based on cash and food stamps	
50% or less	39%	14%	-25
51 to 100%	54	74	+20
101% or more	7	12	+ 5
Number of households (in thousands)	7,101	7,101	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

cash income only, and after the transfer, counting the value of food stamps received along with cash income.<sup>6</sup>

By counting food stamp benefits along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below the poverty line fell from 93 percent to 88 percent. In other words, 5 percent of the participating households were moved above the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. Program benefits had an even greater effect on the poorest households; one-quarter of the participating households were moved to at least half of the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. The proportion of food stamp households above the poverty line increased (from 7 to 12 percent) when food stamp benefits were counted, while the proportion remaining below half of the poverty line was reduced by over two-thirds (from 39 to 14 percent).

### Assets

The summer of 1986 survey collected limited information on the assets of participating households. Three-quarters of all food stamp households had no assets counted toward the resource limit. Another 20 percent had countable assets of \$500 or less. The remaining 5 percent of households had assets of between \$501 and \$3,000.

Households with elderly members had somewhat higher asset levels, but only 5 percent of these households had \$1,000 or more in countable resources in spite of a higher resource limit (\$3,000 for each household). Across all households, countable assets averaged \$71 in the summer of 1986, while households with elderly members had an average of \$171.

### Caseload Composition

The average size of a food stamp household was about 2.7 persons in the summer of 1986, but there was considerable variation among different household types. The average for households with school-age children, for example, was 3.9 persons. Households with children contained an average of 3.7 persons. Households with earned income also had an average of 3.7 persons. Households with one or more elderly members contained an average of only 1.5 persons. Over one-half (52 percent) of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.

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<sup>6</sup>This comparison assumes that program participants value their food stamp benefits at face value. For a general discussion of this and related issues, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Technical Paper No. 50, "Alternative Methods for Valuing Selected In-Kind Transfer Benefits and Measuring Their Effect on Poverty," Washington, D.C., 1982.



The heads of food stamp households were predominantly female (72 percent). Forty-seven percent were white, 36 percent black, and about 11 percent were of Hispanic origin.

The age distribution of all people receiving food stamps was substantially different from the age distribution of household heads. About 51 percent of all food stamp participants were children 17 years old or younger. Another 8 percent were 60 years or older. Thus, 59 percent of all food stamp participants were either young or old.

About 59 percent of all program participants were female. Female adults, ages 18 to 59, outnumbered their male counterparts by over 2 to 1. Households headed by adult women dominate the sizable number of food stamp households that also received AFDC. The high number of women reflects the fact that the poverty rate among all families (not just Food Stamp Program households) headed by females in 1986 was 35 percent--over three times the overall rate.

### **Households with Children**

Over 82 percent of all food stamp benefits in the summer of 1986 were issued to households with children, over 61 percent of all participating households. These households were predominantly headed by women (79 percent).

Households with children were typically larger, had higher income yet lower per person income, than households without children. The average size of a household with children was 3.7 persons, compared to an average of 1.2 persons in households without children. The average gross income among households with children was \$481 per month (\$130 per person), compared to \$315 per month (\$263 per person) in those without children. Households with children received an average food stamp benefit of \$162 per month (\$44 per person) while those without children received \$54 per month (\$45 per person).

About 68 percent of the households headed by women with children received AFDC. The average size of these households receiving AFDC was 3.5 people. These households had an average gross income of \$449, an average net income of \$263, and an average monthly food stamp benefit of \$156 (\$45 per person).

### **Households with Elderly**

Households with elderly members accounted for 20 percent of the total food stamp caseload in the summer of 1986, but since they were smaller on average and had relatively higher income, they received 8 percent of all benefits issued that period. Forty-five percent of all one-person households were elderly (that is, single elderly persons living alone or certified as a separate food stamp unit within a larger household). Ninety percent of all elderly participants either lived by themselves or with one other person.

After adjusting for the differences in household size, households with elderly members had relatively higher income than those without elderly members. Only 9 percent had a gross income below half of the poverty line. Average gross income per person was much higher among the elderly--\$280 versus \$139 per month.

Similarly, the average net income of \$161 per person in elderly households was more than double the \$77 per person found in nonelderly households. Thus, average benefits per person were 32 percent less among the elderly--\$32 versus \$47 per month. About 30 percent of the households with elderly members received the minimum \$10 benefit, compared to 3 percent of the households without elderly persons.

### **Households with Earned Income**

Twenty-one percent of all food stamp households reported earned income in the summer of 1986. They received a proportionate share (25 percent) of the benefits issued that month.

About 9 percent of all household heads were employed in full-time jobs (that is, working at least 30 hours per week). Another 5 percent were working part time, less than 1 percent were self-employed, and 0.2 percent were farm employed.

As noted in the earlier discussion of income sources, households with earned income were generally larger than average and somewhat more likely to include children. Consequently, their gross income was substantially larger than that of households without earnings (\$609 versus \$365). They received an average per capita benefit of about \$38, compared to \$46 among households without earned income.

### **Other Program Characteristics**

#### **Work Registration**

Able-bodied food stamp participants age 18 years or older and less than 60 years old were required to register for work and accept employment if offered. Table 7 shows that over 53 percent of all adult participants under the age of 60 were either employed full time or met the work registration requirements of the FSP, AFDC (WIN participants), or unemployment insurance (UI). About 28 percent of all the adults in the program were exempted from work registration because they were responsible for the care of young children or incapacitated adults. Of all food stamp participants, approximately 62 percent were exempted on the basis of their age or disability. This reflects the large number of children and elderly participants in the FSP. The second most frequent exemption, for caretakers of children and incapacitated adults, accounted for about 12 percent of all participants. Over 8 percent of all food stamp participants were registered for work.

Table 7--Work registration status of food stamp participants  
summer 1986

Work registration status	Percentage of nonelderly adult participants <sup>a</sup> (18-59 years)	Percentage of all participants <sup>a</sup>
<u>Meeting work requirement:</u>		
Registered for work	20.1	8.3
Exempted from food stamp registration:		
Employed full time	9.9	4.0
WIN participants	21.5	9.2
UI recipients	1.7	0.7
<u>Exempted from work requirement:</u>		
Caretakers of children and incapacitated adults	27.9	11.6
Residents of drug addiction/ alcohol treatment center	0.5	0.2
Students	1.6	2.2
Less than 18, over 60, or disabled <sup>b</sup>	13.0	61.5
Number of participants (in thousands)	7,894	19,385

<sup>a</sup>Percent of those participants with known work registration status.

<sup>b</sup>For adults, the figure includes disabled participants only.

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

## Certification Period

In the summer of 1986, about 21 percent of all food stamp households were in the midst of their first participation spell or participating again after an absence of at least 30 days. For the remaining households, the most recent action was recertification of their previously determined food stamp eligibility.

Food stamp certification periods, that is, the length of time before a household's eligibility must be recertified, varied from household to household. Each household was generally assigned the longest certification period possible based on the likelihood of changes in its financial circumstances. The average certification length in the summer of 1986 was 9.3 months.<sup>7</sup> The most frequent certification period was 12 months. Forty-six percent of all food stamp households were certified for a 12-month period.

Certification periods assigned to households that had been previously certified for food stamps, while not substantially different, tended to be somewhat longer than those assigned to households applying for the first time (see table 8). The length of the certification period did depend on the characteristics of the household. The average period was 11 months for households with elderly members and 9 months for those with children. Households receiving public assistance had an average period of 11 months, while those with earned income were certified for an average of 8 months.

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<sup>7</sup>Two cautionary points should be made. First, the average certification period reported here does not represent the length of continuous participation in the program. It counts only the length of the current certification period. Households with relatively stable circumstances may be certified several times without interrupting program benefits. Second, given current expectations regarding turnover in the FSP, this figure probably overstates the actual certification period assigned to all participants over the course of a year. Those with very short periods (1 or 2 months), for example, are probably underrepresented in a monthly cross-sectional sample.



Table 8--Average length of certification period  
summer 1986 (in months)

	Initial application	Recertification	All households
Households with:			
Elderly	10.5	11.3	11.2
Public assistance	9.4	11.3	11.2
Children	8.6	8.7	8.8
Earned income	8.3	8.1	8.3
All households	8.8	9.3	9.3

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

### CHAPTER 3: CHANGES IN FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter describes some of the changes in the composition and circumstances of the food stamp caseload from 1985 to 1986 by looking at survey results from summer 1985 and summer 1986. The economy had a slow rate of growth in 1986 resulting in a marginal improvement in the poverty rate. The poverty rate declined from 14.0 to 13.6 percent. Also, there were several changes in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) between summer 1985 and summer 1986 (see Chapter 1). Thus, comparisons of caseload characteristics should mirror changes in both personal economic circumstances and changes caused by new program rules.

Several factors should be considered when interpreting the results presented here. Since this analysis is based on a cross-sectional sample, it cannot determine whether differences in caseload characteristics are due to changes in the circumstances of continuing participants, to changes in the circumstances of new participants, or some combination of both. Nor can a cross-sectional analysis disaggregate the separate impacts of food stamp legislation, changes in other related social programs, or changes in the economy. A longitudinal sample, which tracks household characteristics over time, is a better measure of these effects as well as changes in the behavior of individual participants.<sup>1</sup>

#### Changes in Income

Average monthly gross income increased from \$398 per household in summer 1985 to \$417 in the summer of 1986 (see table 9). After adjusting for inflation, real gross income increased by 3.0 percent.

Real net income for food stamp households increased 0.9 percent. Between the same two periods, per capita real disposable personal income also increased by 2.3 percent nationwide. Although the average real net income of food participants increased, it did not keep pace with the country as a whole.

The distribution of real gross household income, shown in table 10, reflects a slight change in the distribution of real gross income.

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<sup>1</sup>See "The Effects of Legislative Changes in 1981 and 1982 on the Food Stamp Program," Volume I, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, May 1985. The report examines changes in food stamp participant characteristics using a longitudinal sample extracted from food stamp case records.

Table 9--Average nominal and real monthly income of food stamp participants, summer 1985 and summer 1986

	Summer 1985	Summer 1986 Nominal	Real <sup>a</sup>	Percentage change Nominal	change Real <sup>a</sup>
<u>Average gross income</u>					
Per household	\$398	\$417	\$410	+4.8%	+3.0%
Per person	147	154	145		
<u>Average net income</u>					
Per household	226	232	228	+2.7	+0.9%
Per person	84	86	85		

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted by change in CPI for all items between summer 1985 and summer 1986.

Source: Summer 1985, summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 10--Distribution of participating food stamp households by real gross monthly income, summer 1985 and summer 1986

Value of real gross income	Percent of all households	
	Summer 1985	Summer 1986 <sup>a</sup>
None	6.8%	6.0%
\$ 1 - 249	20.4	18.2
250 - 499	49.0	47.5
500 - 749	16.2	19.4
750 - 999	5.3	6.2
1000+	2.3	2.7
Number of households (in thousands)	7,121	7,101
Mean income	\$385	\$410

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted by change in CPI for all items between summer 1985 and summer 1986.

Source: Summer 1985, summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.



In summer 1986, there are more households with higher real gross income than in summer 1985. Between the two periods, the proportion of food stamp households with real gross income under \$500 declined by 4.5 percent. There was a corresponding increase (over 4 percent) in the proportion of households within the \$500-999 range. However, the distribution of households, with respect to the official poverty guidelines (as shown in table 11), remains constant. Since the poverty line varies by household size and is adjusted each year to reflect changes in the cost of living, this standard also provides a measure of real changes in income. As indicated in table 11, there was little change in the distribution of households within given income brackets. The percentage of households with gross income less than or equal to half the poverty line, for instance, decreased less than 1 percent in real terms. For those households with income above this level, the change was even smaller.

Real incomes of food stamp participants from selected sources decreased somewhat between summer 1985 and summer 1986. Table 12 displays the change in average nominal and real income from the four most frequent sources of income among food stamp households: AFDC (present in 38 percent of all food stamp households in summer 1986), Social Security and Railroad Retirement Income (present in 20 percent of all households), Supplemental Security Income (present in 18 percent of all households), and wages and salaries (present in about 19 percent of all households). The real value of SSI benefits among food stamp households increased by 2.7 percent. Real AFDC income increased by about 2.5 percent. With an increase of 5.4 percent, the real value of Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits showed the largest change. The average real value of their wages and salaries decreased by 3.4 percent.

### Changes in Deductions

Nominal average total deductions increased from \$191 to \$203 between summer 1985 and summer 1986. The percent of the potential or entitlement deduction that was claimed in the summer of 1986 was nearly identical to the proportion in summer 1985: 91 versus 90 percent.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>It is important to recall the distinction between the deduction to which a household was entitled and the deduction actually used (or claimed) to compute food stamp benefits. The average amount households could actually claim, given their gross income, rose from \$172 in summer 1985 to \$185 in summer 1986 (an increase in real dollars of 5.8 percent). The average deduction to which they were entitled rose from \$191 to \$203 (an increase in nominal dollars of 6.3 percent).

Table 11--Comparison of poverty status of participating households  
summer 1985 and summer 1986

(Percent of all households)

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Summer 1985	Summer 1986
50% or less	40.2%	39.3%
51 - 100%	53.5	54.1
101 - 150%	6.1	6.5
151% or more	0.2	0.1
Number of households (in thousands)	7,121	7,101

Source: Summer 1985, summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control  
samples.

Table 12--Average nominal and real monthly income from selected sources, summer 1985 and summer 1986

Source of income	Summer 1985	Summer 1986		Percentage change	
		Nominal	Real <sup>a</sup>	Nominal	Real <sup>a</sup>
Wages and salaries	\$495	\$486	\$478	-1.8%	-3.4%
AFDC	354	369	363	+4.2	+2.5
Social Security and Railroad Retirement	314	336	331	+7.0	+5.4
SSI	221	231	227	+4.5	+2.7

<sup>a</sup>Real income adjusted by change in CPI for all items between summer 1985 and summer 1986.

Source: Summer 1985, summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

As table 13 shows, the percentage of food stamp households that claimed each deduction changed only slightly. The most frequently used deduction--with the exception of the standard available to every household--was the excess shelter deduction, claimed by about 72 percent of the participating households. The earned income deduction was claimed by 21 percent of all food stamp households. Both the dependent care and the medical deductions resulted in substantial deductions when they were claimed--an average of \$91 and \$75 per month, respectively, in summer 1986. However, because so few households claimed these particular deductions, they did not have much impact on the overall level of deductions.

### Changes in Benefits

Average per capita benefits are a function of net income and the maximum food stamp allotment. Since net income is calculated by subtracting allowable deductions from gross income, changes in average gross income or deductions will have an effect on average benefits. As a result, the increase in average deductions as well as a small change in the maximum allotment accounted for a slightly increased average monthly benefit from summer 1985 (\$116) to summer 1986 (\$120). In addition, the distribution of food stamp benefit amounts during this period, after accounting for the effect of food price inflation, shifted.<sup>3</sup> The proportion of households receiving \$100 or less decreased. The percentage of households receiving more than \$100 slightly increased (see table 14).

Table 15 presents the sources of change in average food stamp benefits. Average gross and net incomes, deductions and benefits adjusted by the change in the CPI for all items between summer 1985 and summer 1986 are provided. It shows a slight increase in the average real gross income of food stamp households (up 1 percent), a larger change in the average real value of total deductions claimed (up 3 percent), and a modest decline in average real net income (down 1 percent) in constant summer 1985 dollars. The disproportional increase in the average real value of the total deductions is one of the reasons for the decline in average real net income.

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<sup>3</sup>Throughout this section, real benefits have been adjusted to constant summer 1985 dollars using the CPI for food at home unless otherwise noted.



Table 13--Frequency and value of deductions from gross income  
summer 1985 and summer 1986

Type of deduction	Percent of households with deduction		Average value of deduction <sup>b</sup>		
	Summer 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1985	Summer 1986	Percent change
Standard	100%	100%	\$ 95	\$ 98	+ 3.2%
Earned income	20	21	87	97	+11.5
Dependent care	2	2	88	91	+ 3.4
Excess shelter	71	72	106	112	+ 5.7
Medical	3	3	59	75	+27.1
Total deduction <sup>a</sup>					
Excluding standard	79	80	96	105	+ 9.4
Including standard	100	100	191	203	+ 6.3
Number of households (in thousands)	7,121	7,101			

<sup>a</sup>Average total deduction to which households were entitled. The average deduction actually claimed was \$172 in summer 1985, \$185 in summer 1986.

<sup>b</sup>For households claiming the deduction.

Source: Summer 1985, summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 14--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit, summer 1985 and summer 1986

Average monthly food stamp benefit	Nominal benefits		Real benefits <sup>a</sup>
	Summer 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1986
\$50 or less	23%	22%	23%
51 to 100	30	28	28
101 to 150	19	20	20
151 to 200	12	12	12
201 or more	16	18	17
Number of households (in thousands)	7,121	7,101	
Mean benefit	\$116	\$120	\$116

<sup>a</sup>Benefit adjusted by change in CPI for food at home since summer 1985.

Source: Summer 1985, summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 15--Sources of change in average food stamp benefits  
summer 1985 and summer 1986<sup>a</sup>

	Nominal values			Real values	
	Summer 1985	Summer 1986	Percentage change	Summer 1986	Percentage change
Average gross income	\$398	\$417	+4.8	\$402	+1.0
Average total deduction	\$191	\$203	+6.3	\$196	+2.6
Average net income	\$226	\$232	+2.7	\$224	-0.9
Average household benefit	\$116	\$120	+3.5	\$116	0.0
Maximum coupon allotment (for family of four)	\$264	\$268	+1.5	\$258 <sup>b</sup>	-2.3
Consumer Price Index					
All items	323.15	328.30	+1.6		
Food at home	296.05	307.20	+3.8		

<sup>a</sup>Real values are in constant summer 1985 dollars adjusted by changes in the CPI for food at home between summer 1985 and summer 1986.

<sup>b</sup>This decrease occurs because food price inflation was higher between summer 1985 and summer 1986 than between June 1984 and June 1985. The maximum coupon allotments in effect in the summer of 1985 and in the summer of 1986 were based on the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan in June 1984 and June 1985, respectively.

Source: Summer 1985, summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

## **Changes in Household Composition**

The basic character of the food stamp population remained relatively stable, despite the fact that the percentage in the number of households shifted among several major groups (see table 16). The increases in the percents of households with children and with earnings coupled with their larger average household size (3.7 persons versus 2.7 persons for all households) has slightly shifted the distribution of household size toward larger households from summer 1985. The shift has largely occurred from one- and two-person households to households with three, four, or five persons. As table 16 illustrates, the proportion of each of these household types relative to the total remained fairly constant.

### **Households with Children**

While overall program participation remained the same between summer 1985 and summer 1986, the percent of food stamp households with female heads and dependent children increased 4 percent. As a proportion of all food stamp households, the proportion of female-headed households rose from 46 percent to 48 percent in summer 1986.

Overall, the proportion of households with children and households with school-age children increased (2.0 and 1.1 percent, respectively).

### **Households with Elderly**

In summer 1986 there were approximately 1.4 million elderly households in the FSP. The proportion of elderly households declined at a greater rate than for the general caseload. Between 1985 and 1986, the poverty rate for persons 65 years old and over stabilized and did not change significantly.

### **Households with Earnings**

The number of food stamp households with earned income rose by 7 percent from summer 1985 to summer 1986. Meanwhile, the proportion of households with earned income increased only 1 percent.



Table 16--Changes in food stamp caseload composition  
summer 1985 and summer 1986<sup>a</sup>

(numbers in thousands)

Major household type	Distribution of households				Percentage change in number of households
	Number Summer 1985	Percent	Number Summer 1986	Percent	
Families with female head and dependent children	3,288	46.2%	3,432	48.3%	+4.4
Households with elderly	1,523	21.4	1,438	20.2	-5.6
Households with earners	1,396	19.6	1,494	21.0	+7.0
All households	7,121		7,101		-0.3

<sup>a</sup>Columns do not add to total because some food stamp households belong to more than one or to none of the categories included in the table.

Source: Summer 1985, summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

## CHAPTER 4: DETAILED TABLES FOR THE 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In the pages that follow, detailed tabulations of the characteristics of food stamp households and participants are presented. These tables are roughly ordered to provide information on the following topics:

- Average amounts and sources of income, both gross and net.
- Frequency and average amount of deductions from gross income.
- Average amount of monthly food stamp benefits and countable resources.
- Certification status of participating households.
- Age, race, and sex of food stamp participants.
- Employment and work registration status of food stamp participants and household heads.
- Summary statistics for households with earned income, with elderly members, with disabled members, with children, and with school-age children.
- Summary comparisons of survey results: 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1986.

The reference population for each table, unless otherwise noted, is the food stamp caseload in the 50 States and the District of Columbia in the summer of 1986.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Summer 1986 refers to the average of data for July and August 1986. Household samples were taken from both July and August to maintain an adequate sample size given reduced annual State sample sizes.

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Table 1  
Aggregate Summer 1986 Participation Totals

Area	Number of households (000)	Number of people (000)	Value of benefits (000)
United States	7,102	19,069	860,420
Continental U.S.	7,058	18,951	850,827
Alaska, Hawaii	44	118	9,593
Outlying Areas(a)	11	47	3,085
Total	7,113	19,116	863,505

(a)Includes participants in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. Participants in the Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Program are not included.

Source: Food Stamp Program Statistical Summary of Operations,  
Summer 1986.

TABLE 2  
AVERAGE VALUES OF SELECTED NATIONAL  
CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS

=====	
All Households	
-----	
Gross Monthly Income	\$417
Net Monthly Income	\$232
Total Deduction(a)	\$203
Countable Resources	\$71
Monthly Benefit	\$120
Household Size	2.7
Certification Period	9.3
-----	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. Value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction varies depending on region (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.



TABLE 3  
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS  
WITH SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

---

	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
<hr/>		
Zero Gross Income	425	6.0
Zero Net Income	1,320	18.6
Minimum Benefit(a)	600	8.5
Elderly(b)	1,438	20.2
Children(c)	4,344	61.2
School Age Children(d)	3,367	47.4
Disabled(e)	501	7.1

---

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Minimum Benefit is \$10 for one or two person households.

(b) Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(c) Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(d) Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

(e) Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

TABLE 4

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY GROSS AND NET  
MONTHLY INCOME

Amount of Monthly Income	Gross Income		Net Income	
	Number of Households (000)	Percent of all Households	Number of Households (000)	Percent of all Households
None	425	6.0	1,320	18.6
\$ 1-99	142	2.0	1,059	14.9
100-199	594	8.4	1,283	18.1
200-299	1,026	14.5	1,272	17.9
300-399	1,705	24.0	802	11.3
400-499	1,122	15.8	548	7.7
500-599	750	10.6	338	4.8
600-699	508	7.2	192	2.7
700-799	283	4.0	107	1.5
800-899	206	2.9	87	1.2
900-999	135	1.9	37	0.5
1000 +	206	2.9	57	0.8
Total(a)	7,101	100.0	7,101	100.0
Average Income	\$417		\$232	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 5

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY GROSS MONTHLY INCOME  
AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Gross Monthly Income	Household Size								No. of Households (000)(a)	Percent of All Households
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	221	70	50	43	31	6	3	--	425	6.0
\$ 1- 99	71	33	18	10	6	2	1	1	142	2.0
100-199	310	102	119	38	18	6	0	0	594	8.4
200-299	365	328	174	101	38	16	3	2	1026	14.5
300-399	831	319	283	185	45	31	7	4	1705	24.0
400-499	358	299	187	135	97	32	6	8	1122	15.8
500-599	70	216	167	180	72	23	15	7	750	10.6
600-699	2	94	194	109	60	33	8	10	508	7.2
700-799	0	22	62	103	43	30	11	12	283	4.0
800-899	--	6	33	74	51	21	7	15	206	2.9
900-999	0	2	8	38	26	43	9	8	135	1.9
1000 +	2	1	1	26	59	43	37	37	206	2.9
Number of Households(a)	2232	1491	1296	1043	545	283	106	105	7101	100.0
Percent of All Households	31.4	21.0	18.3	14.7	7.7	4.0	1.5	1.5	100.0	
Average Gross Income	\$284	\$371	\$420	\$509	\$578	\$691	\$817	\$941	\$417	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

-- No households in this category.

(a)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 6

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY NET MONTHLY INCOME  
AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Net Monthly Income	Household Size								No. of Households (000)(a)	Percent of All Households
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
None	697	263	171	101	67	14	6	3	1320	18.6
\$ 1- 99	423	276	216	94	30	15	4	2	1059	14.9
100-199	437	317	248	179	66	26	6	4	1283	18.1
200-299	487	258	225	184	74	35	3	5	1272	17.9
300-399	165	181	181	149	77	28	13	8	802	11.3
400-499	20	156	132	121	60	30	13	16	548	7.7
500-599	--	33	97	108	50	32	9	11	338	4.8
600-699	--	6	26	65	50	25	10	10	192	2.7
700-799	0	2	1	30	32	25	8	9	107	1.5
800-899	--	0	0	11	24	34	9	8	87	1.2
900-999	--	--	--	--	11	7	12	8	37	0.5
1000 +	2	0	--	--	5	13	14	23	57	0.8
Number of Households(a)	2232	1491	1296	1043	545	283	106	105	7101	100.0
Percent of All Households	31.4	21.0	18.3	14.7	7.7	4.0	1.5	1.5	100.0	
Average Net Income	\$123	\$186	\$229	\$304	\$375	\$489	\$599	\$720	\$232	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

-- No households in this category.

(a)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.



TABLE 7

## DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME SOURCE

Amount of Monthly Income From Specified Source	Earned Income(a)		Social Security		AFDC or General Assistance		SSI		Other Income	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	(000)		(000)		(000)		(000)		(000)	
None	5,607	79.0	5,676	79.9	3,528	49.7	5,819	81.9	5,793	81.6
\$ 1-99	156	2.2	34	0.5	183	2.6	325	4.6	620	8.7
100-199	216	3.0	174	2.5	666	9.4	260	3.7	227	3.2
200-299	155	2.2	405	5.7	899	12.7	104	1.5	148	2.1
300-399	135	1.9	408	5.7	747	10.5	481	6.8	104	1.5
400-499	149	2.1	246	3.5	479	6.7	76	1.1	86	1.2
500-599	173	2.4	95	1.3	244	3.4	31	0.4	51	0.7
600-699	138	1.9	34	0.5	199	2.8	4	0.1	32	0.5
700-799	111	1.6	20	0.3	82	1.2	2	0.0	17	0.2
800-899	92	1.3	3	0.0	34	0.5	--	--	12	0.2
900-999	61	0.9	1	0.0	27	0.4	--	--	10	0.1
1000 +	108	1.5	6	0.1	14	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.0
Number of Households(b)	7,101	100.0	7,101	100.0	7,101	100.0	7,101	100.0	7,101	100.0
Households With Income	1,494	21.0	1,425	20.1	3,573	50.3	1,282	18.1	1,309	18.4
Average Amount of Income(c)	\$486		\$336		\$338		\$231		\$190	
Average Gross Income(c)	\$609		\$460		\$418		\$439		\$470	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(b) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

(c) For households with income from specified source.

-- No households in this category.

TABLE 8

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS, AVERAGE INCOME, AND AVERAGE BENEFIT  
BY SELECTED INCOME SOURCES

Income Source	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households	Average Income Amount(a)		Average Benefit(a)
			Gross	From Source	
Earned Income:					
Wages and salaries	1,329	18.7	\$631	\$509	\$140
Self-employment	119	1.7	\$471	\$268	\$171
Earned income tax credit	5	0.1	\$627	\$317	\$157
Other earned income	59	0.8	\$459	\$261	\$129
Unearned Income:					
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	2,697	38.0	\$457	\$372	\$156
Household General Assistance	926	13.0	\$310	\$221	\$104
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	1,282	18.1	\$439	\$231	\$55
Social Security	1,425	20.1	\$460	\$336	\$58
Household unemployment income	166	2.3	\$579	\$375	\$139
Veteran benefits	169	2.4	\$454	\$218	\$55
Workers compensation	31	0.4	\$670	\$534	\$142
Other government benefits	96	1.3	\$422	\$163	\$125
Household contributions	188	2.6	\$413	\$169	\$141
Household deemed income	2	0.0	\$420	\$136	\$80
Household loans	47	0.7	\$523	\$138	\$117
Other unearned income	306	4.3	\$443	\$111	\$105
Income from unknown source(b):	405	5.7	\$490	\$111	\$140
No income:	425	6.0	\$0	\$0	\$150
Total(c):	7,101	100.0	\$417		\$120

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Average over households with income from specified source.

(b)Not reported as income from specific source, but included as part of gross income.  
Reported here to maintain consistency.

(c)Sum of individual income sources do not add to totals because households can  
receive income from more than one source.

TABLE 9

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY GROSS MONTHLY INCOME  
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POVERTY LINE FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS,  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY OR DISABLED, AND  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Gross Income as a Percentage of the Poverty Line(a)	All Households		Households With Elderly(b)		Households With Elderly or Disabled(c)		Households With Children(d)	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
25% or less	888	12.5	28	2.0	30	1.6	521	12.0
26 - 50%	1,906	26.8	101	7.0	142	7.3	1,471	33.9
51 - 75%	1,940	27.3	335	23.3	535	27.6	1,256	28.9
76 - 100%	1,901	26.8	792	55.0	1,006	51.9	886	20.4
101 - 125%	433	6.1	169	11.7	208	10.7	196	4.5
126 - 130%	14	0.2	2	0.2	3	0.1	7	0.2
131 - 150%	13	0.2	6	0.4	10	0.5	6	0.1
151 or more	6	0.1	5	0.4	5	0.3	1	0.0
Total(e)	7,101	100.0	1,438	100.0	1,939	100.0	4,344	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Defined as the 1986 Census Bureau estimated poverty thresholds (see appendix A).

(b) Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(c) Households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

(d) Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(e) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY NET MONTHLY INCOME  
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POVERTY LINE FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS,  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY OR DISABLED, AND  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Net Income as a Percentage of the Poverty Line(a)	All Households		Households With Elderly(b)		Households With Elderly or Disabled(c)		Households With Children(d)	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
25% or less	3,309	46.6	331	23.0	450	23.2	1,965	45.2
26 - 50%	2,006	28.2	461	32.0	641	33.1	1,372	31.6
51 - 75%	1,490	21.0	537	37.4	698	36.0	845	19.5
76 - 100%	287	4.0	103	7.2	141	7.3	158	3.6
101 - 125%	5	0.1	2	0.2	4	0.2	3	0.1
126 - 130%	2	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.0
131 - 150%	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
151 or more	3	0.0	3	0.2	3	0.1	0	0.0
Total(e)	7,101	100.0	1,438	100.0	1,939	100.0	4,344	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Defined as the 1986 Census Bureau estimated poverty thresholds (see appendix A).

(b)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(c)Households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

(d)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(e)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 11

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING AND VALUE OF  
DEDUCTION CLAIMED(a)

Type of Deduction	Number of Households Claiming Deduction (000)	Percent of All Households	Average Amount of Deduction Over Claiming Households	Over all Households
Earned Income	1,494	21.0	\$97	\$20
Dependent Care(b)	137	1.9	\$91	\$2
Shelter(c)	5,086	71.6	\$112	\$80
Medical(d)	227	3.2	\$75	\$2
Total(e)	7,101	100.0	\$203	\$203

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(b) Subject to a limit of \$160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix C).

(c) Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix C).

(d) Available only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

(e) Includes standard deduction for all households (see appendix C). Due to households claiming more than one deduction or none at all, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.



TABLE 12

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT  
OF TOTAL DEDUCTION

Amount of Total Deduction(a)	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
51 - 100	1,446	20.4
101 - 150	872	12.3
151 - 200	1,068	15.0
201 - 250	2,418	34.1
251 - 300	539	7.6
300+	757	10.7
Total(b)	7,101	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$203	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(b)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 13

AVERAGE TOTAL DEDUCTION(a) FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS BY  
GROSS MONTHLY INCOME AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Gross Monthly Income	Household Size								Average Total Deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
None	\$143	\$191	\$180	\$200	\$191	\$185	\$203	--	\$166
\$ 1-99	\$173	\$184	\$215	\$190	\$187	\$245	\$251	\$191	\$184
100-199	\$197	\$184	\$197	\$202	\$211	\$200	\$245	\$269	\$195
200-299	\$210	\$194	\$192	\$186	\$215	\$161	\$186	\$247	\$199
300-399	\$179	\$210	\$195	\$195	\$197	\$174	\$191	\$162	\$190
400-499	\$210	\$197	\$210	\$207	\$203	\$197	\$170	\$212	\$205
500-599	\$197	\$197	\$210	\$221	\$206	\$184	\$238	\$181	\$207
600-699	\$395	\$236	\$202	\$217	\$206	\$210	\$208	\$192	\$213
700-799	\$501	\$299	\$242	\$210	\$221	\$247	\$225	\$197	\$230
800-899	--	\$213	\$301	\$270	\$211	\$197	\$264	\$200	\$246
900-999	\$196	\$317	\$339	\$312	\$221	\$165	\$207	\$212	\$235
1000 +	\$529	\$288	\$330	\$327	\$322	\$294	\$254	\$265	\$296
Average Total Deduction	\$189	\$202	\$206	\$217	\$219	\$208	\$230	\$222	\$203

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

-- No households in this category.

TABLE 14

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING EARNED INCOME  
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED(a)

Households With:	Number of Households		Percent of Households	Average Amount of Deduction	
	Total (000)	With Deduction (000)		With Deduction	All Households
Elderly(b)	1,438	79	5.5	\$68	\$4
Children(c)	4,344	1,196	27.5	\$108	\$30
Disabled(d)	501	53	10.7	\$59	\$6
Earned Income(e)	1,494	1,494	100.0	\$97	\$97
Public Assistance(f)	3,573	373	10.4	\$61	\$6
Total(g)	7,101	1,494	21.0	\$97	\$20

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(b)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(c)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(d)Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(e)Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(f)Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

(g)The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

TABLE 15

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT  
OF EARNED INCOME DEDUCTION(a)

Amount of Earned Income Deduction	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
None	5,607	79.0
\$ 1 - 50	449	6.3
51 - 100	370	5.2
101 - 150	362	5.1
151 - 200	206	2.9
201 - 250	79	1.1
251 - 300	17	0.2
300+	10	0.1
Total(b)	7,101	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$97	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(b) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 16

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING DEPENDENT CARE(a)  
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED(b)

Households With:	Number of Households		Percent of Households	Average Amount of Deduction	
	Total (000)	With Deduction (000)		With Deduction	All Households
Elderly(c)	1,438	2	0.1	\$92	\$0
Children(d)	4,344	136	3.1	\$91	\$3
Disabled(e)	501	0	0.1	\$106	\$0
Earned Income(f)	1,494	123	8.2	\$92	\$8
Public Assistance(g)	3,573	54	1.5	\$77	\$1
Total(h)	7,101	137	1.9	\$91	\$2

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Subject to a limit of \$160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix C).

(b)Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(c)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(d)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(e)Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(f)Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(g)Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

(h)The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.



TABLE 17

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT  
OF DEPENDENT CARE DEDUCTION(a)

Amount of Dependent Care Deduction(b)	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
None	6,964	98.1
\$ 1 - 50	39	0.5
51 - 100	37	0.5
101 - 150	38	0.5
151 - 160	24	0.3
Total(c)	7,101	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$91	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(b) Subject to a limit of \$160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix C).

(c) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 18

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING EXCESS SHELTER(a)  
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED(b)

Households With:	Number of Households		Percent of Households(g)	Average Amount of Deduction	
	Total (000)	With Deduction (000)		With Deduction	All Households
Elderly(c)	1,438	925	64.3	\$112	\$72
Children(d)	4,344	3,113	71.7	\$111	\$80
Disabled(e)	501	331	66.1	\$135	\$89
Earned Income(f)	1,494	994	66.5	\$105	\$70
Public Assistance(g)	3,573	2,772	77.6	\$110	\$86
Total(h)	7,101	5,086	71.6	\$112	\$80

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix C).

(b) Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(c) Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(d) Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(e) Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(f) Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(g) Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

(h) The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

TABLE 19

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT  
OF EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION(a)

Amount of Excess Shelter Deduction(b)	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
None	2,016	28.4
\$ 1 - 50	915	12.9
51 - 100	1,107	15.6
101 - 150	2,696	38.0
151 - 200	160	2.3
201 - 250	102	1.4
251 - 300	46	0.7
300+	59	0.8
Total(c)	7,101	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$112	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(b) Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix C).

(c) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 20

## DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY THE VALUE OF SHELTER DEDUCTION(a)

Value of Shelter Deduction(b)	All Households		Households With Elderly(c)		Households With Children(d)		Households With Disabled(e)		Households With Earned Income(f)		Households With Public Assistance(g)	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
None	2,016	28.4	513	35.7	1,231	28.3	170	33.9	500	33.5	802	22.4
Less than Cap	2,965	41.8	671	46.7	1,630	37.5	212	42.2	583	39.0	1,599	44.7
Equal to Cap	1,750	24.6	1	0.1	1,435	33.0	2	0.4	387	25.9	1,131	31.7
Greater than Cap	370	5.2	252	17.6	49	1.1	118	23.5	24	1.6	42	1.2
Total(h)	7,101	100.0	1,438	100.0	4,344	100.0	501	100.0	1,494	100.0	3,573	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(b) Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix C).

(c) Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(d) Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(e) Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(f) Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(g) Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

(h) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 21

NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS CLAIMING MEDICAL  
DEDUCTION AND VALUE OF DEDUCTION CLAIMED(a)

Households With:	Number of Households		Percent of Households	Average Amount of Deduction	
	Total (000)	With Deduction (000)		With Deduction	All Households
Elderly(b)	1,438	219	15.2	\$76	\$12
Children(c)	4,344	11	0.3	\$62	\$0
Disabled(d)	501	8	1.6	\$59	\$1
Earned Income(e)	1,494	7	0.4	\$53	\$0
Public Assistance(f)	3,573	9	0.2	\$78	\$0
Total(g)	7,101	227	3.2	\$75	\$2

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Available only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(b)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(c)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(d)Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(e)Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(f)Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Assistance (GA).

(g)The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.



TABLE 22

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT  
OF MEDICAL DEDUCTION

Amount of Medical Deduction(a)	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
None	6,874	96.8
\$ 1 - 50	125	1.8
51 - 100	43	0.6
101 - 150	27	0.4
151 - 200	17	0.2
201 - 250	5	0.1
251 - 300	3	0.0
300+	6	0.1
Total(b)	7,101	100.0
Average Deduction for Claiming Households	\$75	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Available only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(b) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 23

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY AMOUNT OF  
MONTHLY FOOD STAMP BENEFIT

Amount of Monthly Benefit(a)	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
\$ 10 or less	606	8.5
11 - 25	355	5.0
26 - 50	624	8.8
51 - 75	737	10.4
76 - 100	1,230	17.3
101 - 150	1,394	19.6
151 - 200	859	12.1
201 - 300	1,028	14.5
301 or more	268	3.8
Total(b)	7,101	100.0
Average Benefit	\$120	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)The maximum monthly benefit varies by area (see appendix D).

(b)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 24

AVERAGE MONTHLY FOOD STAMP BENEFIT BY GROSS MONTHLY  
INCOME AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Gross Monthly Income	Household Size								Average Benefit Per Household
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
None	\$81	\$147	\$212	\$270	\$318	\$382	\$422	--	\$150
\$ 1-99	\$80	\$148	\$211	\$268	\$318	\$382	\$422	\$483	\$144
100-199	\$78	\$142	\$207	\$264	\$314	\$379	\$422	\$483	\$137
200-299	\$66	\$128	\$189	\$246	\$304	\$352	\$399	\$522	\$139
300-399	\$29	\$104	\$165	\$220	\$269	\$327	\$370	\$492	\$101
400-499	\$24	\$65	\$141	\$195	\$245	\$306	\$339	\$447	\$107
500-599	\$13	\$44	\$110	\$172	\$215	\$274	\$321	\$424	\$119
600-699	\$35	\$33	\$81	\$138	\$191	\$254	\$286	\$394	\$118
700-799	\$13	\$28	\$62	\$108	\$162	\$228	\$259	\$337	\$128
800-899	--	\$14	\$52	\$98	\$128	\$190	\$264	\$324	\$126
900-999	\$10	\$10	\$36	\$78	\$102	\$149	\$194	\$310	\$124
1000 +	\$10	\$10	\$102	\$45	\$82	\$116	\$138	\$232	\$121
Average Benefit per Household	\$47	\$92	\$143	\$177	\$207	\$236	\$244	\$327	\$120

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

-- No households in this category.

TABLE 25

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY TOTAL COUNTABLE  
RESOURCES FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSEHOLDS WITH  
ELDERLY OR DISABLED

Value of Countable Resources(a)	All Households		Households With Elderly(b)		Households With Elderly or Disabled(c)	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
None	5,323	75.0	879	61.1	1,224	63.1
\$ 1 - 500	1,418	20.0	374	26.0	497	25.6
501 - 1,000	235	3.3	118	8.2	137	7.1
1,001 - 1,500	82	1.2	42	3.0	52	2.7
1,501 - 1,750	22	0.3	10	0.7	13	0.7
1,751 - 2,000	8	0.1	3	0.2	3	0.1
2,001 - 3,000	12	0.2	11	0.8	11	0.6
Unknown	1	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1
<hr/>						
Total(d)	7101	100.0	1438	100.0	1939	100.0
Average Value	\$71		\$171		\$150	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Defined as cash on hand, assets which can be easily converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. They also include some nonliquid assets, although the family home, one or more family vehicles if under \$4,500 in value, and business tools or property are not counted.

(b)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(c)Households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

(d)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 26

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY  
TYPE OF MOST RECENT ACTION

Most Recent Action	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
Initial Certification(a)	1,485	20.9
Recertification	5,352	75.4
Unknown	264	3.7
Total(b)	7,101	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Includes both households certified for the first time and previously certified households who have not received benefits for at least 30 days.

(b)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.



TABLE 27

COMPARISON OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT  
EXPEDITED SERVICE BY PRESENCE OF GROSS AND  
NET MONTHLY INCOME

	Households With Expedited Service(a)		Households Without Expedited Service		Unknown	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Gross Income = 0	84	40.4	340	4.9	1	3.8
Gross Income > 0	125	59.6	6,530	95.1	21	96.2
Net Income = 0	128	61.1	1,190	17.3	3	11.6
Net Income > 0	81	38.9	5,680	82.7	19	88.4
Total(b)	209	2.9	6,870	96.7	22	0.3

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households which initially received expedited service for the certification period in effect in July or August 1986.

(b)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 28

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY LENGTH OF  
CERTIFICATION PERIOD

Months in Certification Period	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
1	46	0.7
2	74	1.0
3	393	5.5
4	220	3.1
5	131	1.8
6	1,711	24.1
7	305	4.3
8	117	1.6
9	73	1.0
10	109	1.5
11	180	2.5
12	3,266	46.0
13+	470	6.6
Unknown	5	0.1
Total(a)	7,101	100.0
Average length in months	9.3	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 29

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY  
HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household Size	All Households		Households with Elderly(a)		Households with Earnings		Households with Children(b)	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
1	2,232	31.4	994	69.1	188	12.6	36	0.8
2	1,491	21.0	304	21.1	240	16.1	999	23.0
3	1,296	18.3	59	4.1	306	20.5	1,239	28.5
4	1,043	14.7	39	2.7	344	23.0	1,035	23.8
5	545	7.7	16	1.1	192	12.8	542	12.5
6	283	4.0	9	0.7	120	8.0	283	6.5
7	106	1.5	4	0.3	53	3.6	106	2.4
8+	105	1.5	13	0.9	51	3.4	105	2.4
Total(c)	7101	100.0	1438	100.0	1494	100.0	4344	100.0
Average Size	2.7		1.5		3.7		3.7	

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(b)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(c)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 30

SEX AND AGE RELATED CHARACTERISTICS  
OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS

	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households(f)
Households with Elderly(a)	1,438	20.2
Single person elderly households(b)	994	14.0
Headed by female	830	11.7
Headed by male	162	2.3
Unknown	1	0.0
Other elderly households(c)	444	6.3
Headed by female	208	2.9
Headed by male	236	3.3
Unknown	1	0.0
Households with Children(d)	4,344	61.2
Headed by female	3,432	48.3
Headed by male	788	11.1
Unknown	124	1.7
Households with Disabled(e)	501	7.1
Headed by female	355	5.0
Headed by male	145	2.0
Unknown	1	0.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(b)Includes elderly single persons living alone or as a separate food stamp unit in a larger household.

(c)Includes elderly couples and other multiperson households with elderly members.

(d)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(e)Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(f)Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

TABLE 31

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE,  
NUMBER OF ELDERLY, NUMBER OF CHILDREN, AND NUMBER  
OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

	Household Size								Number of Households (000)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
<hr/>									
Number of Elderly(a)									
0	1,238	1,188	1,237	1,004	529	274	102	92	5,663
1	994	135	46	34	14	9	4	10	1,246
2	0	168	14	5	2	0	--	3	192
Number of Children(b)									
0	2,196	492	58	8	4	0	0	0	2,757
1	36	947	325	48	10	3	0	0	1,368
2	0	53	897	464	53	14	1	1	1,483
3	0	0	17	515	285	26	7	1	852
4	0	0	0	7	193	166	25	9	400
5+	0	0	0	0	0	74	73	93	241
Number of School-Age Children(c)									
0	2,206	913	410	158	41	6	0	0	3,734
1	25	560	463	276	89	27	2	1	1,445
2	0	18	422	360	171	77	17	9	1,075
3	0	0	1	249	169	83	28	13	542
4	0	0	0	0	74	67	39	31	212
5+	0	0	0	0	0	24	20	51	94
Total(d)	2,232	1,491	1,296	1,043	545	283	106	105	7,101

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Persons age 60 or more.

(b)Persons age 17 or less.

(c)Persons age 5 to 17.

(d)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.



TABLE 32

## DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND SEX

Age	Female		Male		Unknown		All Participants	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
4 or less	1,610	8.3	1,641	8.5	5	0.0	3,256	16.8
5 - 17	3,265	16.8	3,313	17.1	10	0.1	6,591	34.0
18 - 35	3,619	18.7	1,532	7.9	6	0.0	5,159	26.6
36 - 59	1,710	8.8	1,022	5.3	2	0.0	2,735	14.1
60 or more	1,185	6.1	444	2.3	1	0.0	1,631	8.4
Unknown	2	0.0	7	0.0	5	0.0	14	0.1
Total(a)	11,392	58.8	7,960	41.1	33	0.2	19,385	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 33

## AGE RELATED CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS

	Number of Participants (000)	Percent of Participants
A. Children(a)	9,846	50.8
1. Preschool children	3,256	16.8
2. School-age children	6,591	34.0
B. Adults(b)	7,894	40.7
1. Parents	5,973	30.8
a. Single parents	2,660	13.7
Living with elderly	52	0.3
Disabled	55	0.3
Living with disabled	26	0.1
Other	2,527	13.0
b. Multiple parents	3,313	17.1
Living with elderly	77	0.4
Disabled	110	0.6
Living with disabled	175	0.9
Other	2,951	15.2
2. Nonparents	1,921	9.9
a. Single adults	1,320	6.8
Living with elderly	117	0.6
Disabled	247	1.3
Living with disabled		
Other	956	4.9
b. Multiple adults	601	3.1
Living with elderly	47	0.2
Disabled	59	0.3
Living with disabled	52	0.3
Other	442	2.3
C. Elderly(c)	1,631	8.4
D. Unknown Age	14	0.1
Total(d)	19,385	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Persons age 17 or less.

(b)Persons age 18 to 59.

(c)Persons age 60 or more.

(d)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 34

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY RACE  
OR ETHNIC ORIGIN OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Race/Ethnic Origin of Household Head	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
White	3,346	47.1
Black	2,588	36.4
Hispanic	783	11.0
Asian	130	1.8
American Indian	78	1.1
Unknown	178	2.5
Total(a)	7,101	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 35

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY  
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Households with at Least One:	Number of Households	Percent of All Households
Alien	95	1.3
Migrant	2	0.0
Military	4	0.1
Striker	0	0.0
Student(a)	347	4.9

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Household member age 18 years or older enrolled at least half-time in recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

TABLE 36

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Employment Status of Household Head	Number of Households (000)	Percent of All Households
Employed Full Time(a)	615	8.7
Employed Part Time(b)	356	5.0
Self-Employed	21	0.3
Farm Employed	12	0.2
Not Employed	5,870	82.7
Unknown	226	3.2
Total(c)	7,101	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

(b) Employed less than 30 hours per week.

(c) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.



TABLE 37

DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY WORK REGISTRATION  
STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Work Registration Status of Household Head	Number of Households (000)	Percent of Households
Required to register for work	921	13.0
Exempt from work registration:	5,882	82.8
Less than 18	5	0.1
Disabled or Elderly	2,116	29.8
WIN participant	1,444	20.3
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult(a)	1,595	22.5
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	94	1.3
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	43	0.6
Employed full time(b)	565	8.0
Student(c)	21	0.3
Unknown	298	4.2
Total(d)	7,101	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Includes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

(b) Employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

(c) Enrolled at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

(d) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 38

## DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS BY WORK REGISTRATION STATUS

Work Registration Status	Number of Participants (000)	Percent of Participants
Required to register for work	1,611	8.3
Exempt from work registration:	17,351	89.5
Less than 18	9,332	48.1
Disabled or Elderly	2,586	13.3
WIN participant	1,791	9.2
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult(a)	2,256	11.6
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	133	0.7
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	43	0.2
Employed full time(b)	784	4.0
Student(c)	426	2.2
Unknown	424	2.2
Total(d)	19,385	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Includes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

(b) Employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

(c) Enrolled at least half-time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

(d) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 39

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT EARNED INCOME

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent	Value (000)	Percent
Households With Earned Income(a)	1,494	21.0	\$211,452	24.8
Households With No Earned Income	5,607	79.0	\$641,914	75.2
Total(b)	7,101	100.0	\$853,366	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(b) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 40

AVERAGE VALUE OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT EARNED INCOME

	Households With Earned Income(a)	Households With No Earned Income
Gross Monthly Income	\$609	\$365
Net Monthly Income	\$347	\$202
Total Deduction(b)	\$273	\$184
Countable Resources	\$90	\$66
Monthly Benefit	\$142	\$114
Household Size	3.7	2.5
Certification Period (months)	8.3	9.5

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(b) Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

TABLE 41

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT  
EARNED INCOME FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households With:	Households With Earned Income(a)		Households With No Earned Income	
	Number (000)	Percent(f)	Number (000)	Percent(f)
Zero Gross Income	0	0.0	425	7.6
Zero Net Income	201	13.4	1,119	20.0
Minimum Benefit(b)	52	3.4	549	9.8
Elderly(c)	79	5.3	1,359	24.2
Children(d)	1,196	80.0	3,148	56.1
School Age Children(e)	1,001	67.0	2,366	42.2

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(b) Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

(c) Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(d) Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(e) Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

(f) Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

TABLE 42

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON  
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT  
EARNED INCOME

	Households with Earned Income(a)		Households with No Earned Income	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
-----				
Household Size				
1 - 2	428	28.7	3,294	58.7
3 - 4	650	43.5	1,689	30.1
5+	416	27.8	624	11.1
Gross Income				
None	0	0.0	425	7.6
\$ 1 - 99	47	3.1	95	1.7
100 - 199	94	6.3	499	8.9
200 - 299	122	8.2	904	16.1
300 - 399	125	8.4	1,580	28.2
400 - 499	184	12.3	937	16.7
500+	921	61.6	1,167	20.8
Net Income				
None	201	13.4	1,119	20.0
\$ 1 - 99	145	9.7	914	16.3
100 - 199	162	10.8	1,121	20.0
200 - 299	216	14.4	1,056	18.8
300 - 399	213	14.2	589	10.5
400 - 499	166	11.1	382	6.8
500+	393	26.3	426	7.6
Benefits				
\$ 10 or less	55	3.7	551	9.8
11 - 50	144	9.6	835	14.9
51 - 100	377	25.3	1,590	28.4
101 - 200	565	37.8	1,688	30.1
201 - 300	274	18.3	755	13.5
301+	80	5.3	189	3.4
Total(b)	1,494	100.0	5,607	100.0
-----				

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

(b) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.



TABLE 43

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY AND NO ELDERLY

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent	Value (000)	Percent
Households With Elderly(a)	1,438	20.2	\$68,342	8.0
Households With No Elderly	5,663	79.8	\$785,075	92.0
Total(b)	7,101	100.0	\$853,417	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(b)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 44

AVERAGE VALUE OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT ELDERLY

	Households With Elderly(a)	Households With No Elderly
Gross Monthly Income	\$420	\$416
Net Monthly Income	\$242	\$230
Total Deduction(b)	\$185	\$208
Countable Resources(c)	\$171	\$46
Monthly Benefit	\$48	\$139
Household Size	1.5	3.0
Certification Period (months)	11.2	8.8

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(b)Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those deductions to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

(c)At the time these data were collected, the resource limit for most households was \$2,000. Households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to \$3,000.

TABLE 45

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT  
ELDERLY FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households With:	Households With Elderly(a)		Households With No Elderly	
	Number (000)	Percent(e)	Number (000)	Percent(e)
Zero Gross Income	12	0.9	413	7.3
Zero Net Income	100	6.9	1,221	21.6
Minimum Benefit(b)	428	29.8	172	3.0
Children(c)	136	9.4	4,208	74.3
School-Age Children(d)	128	8.9	3,239	57.2

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(b)Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

(c)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(d)Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

(e)Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

TABLE 46

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON  
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY  
AND NO ELDERLY

	Households with Elderly(a)		Households with No Elderly	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
<hr/>				
Household Size				
1 - 2	1,297	90.2	2,425	42.8
3 - 4	98	6.8	2,241	39.6
5+	43	3.0	997	17.6
Gross Income				
None	12	0.9	413	7.3
\$ 1 - 99	10	0.7	132	2.3
100 - 199	34	2.3	560	9.9
200 - 299	99	6.9	927	16.4
300 - 399	642	44.6	1,063	18.8
400 - 499	335	23.3	787	13.9
500+	307	21.3	1,781	31.5
Net Income				
None	100	6.9	1,221	21.6
\$ 1 - 99	171	11.9	888	15.7
100 - 199	316	22.0	967	17.1
200 - 299	439	30.6	833	14.7
300 - 399	218	15.1	584	10.3
400 - 499	116	8.0	432	7.6
500+	79	5.5	740	13.1
Benefits				
\$ 10 or less	431	30.0	174	3.1
11 - 50	533	37.0	446	7.9
51 - 100	318	22.1	1,650	29.1
101 - 200	118	8.2	2,135	37.7
201 - 300	29	2.0	1,000	17.7
301+	10	0.7	258	4.6
Total(b)	1438	100.0	5,663	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(b)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 47

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABLED MEMBERS

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent	Value (000)	Percent
Households With Disabled(a)	501	7.1	\$39,243	4.6
Households With No Disabled	6,600	92.9	\$814,174	95.4
Total(b)	7,101	100.0	\$853,417	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(b)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 48

AVERAGE VALUE OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABLED

	Households With Disabled(a)	Households With No Disabled
Gross Monthly Income	\$490	\$411
Net Monthly Income	\$300	\$227
Total Deduction(b)	\$195	\$204
Countable Resources	\$87	\$70
Monthly Benefit	\$78	\$123
Household Size	2.4	2.8
Certification Period (months)	10.2	9.2

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(b)Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.



TABLE 49

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT  
DISABLED FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households With:	Households With Disabled(a)		Households With No Disabled	
	Number (000)	Percent(e)	Number (000)	Percent(e)
Zero Gross Income	0	0.0	425	6.4
Zero Net Income	32	6.4	1,288	19.5
Minimum Benefit(b)	94	18.8	506	7.7
Children(c)	202	40.3	4,142	62.8
School-Age Children(d)	173	34.5	3,194	48.4

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(b)Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

(c)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(d)Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

(e)Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

TABLE 50

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON  
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH DISABLED  
AND NO DISABLED

	Households with Disabled(a)		Households with No Disabled	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
<b>Household Size</b>				
1 - 2	336	67.1	3,386	51.3
3 - 4	88	17.5	2,251	34.1
5+	77	15.4	962	14.6
<b>Gross Income</b>				
None	0	0.0	425	6.4
\$ 1 - 99	0	0.1	141	2.1
100 - 199	1	0.2	593	9.0
200 - 299	13	2.6	1,013	15.4
300 - 399	222	44.3	1,483	22.5
400 - 499	94	18.8	1,028	15.6
500+	171	34.1	1,917	29.0
<b>Net Income</b>				
None	32	6.4	1,288	19.5
\$ 1 - 99	50	10.0	1,009	15.3
100 - 199	114	22.7	1,169	17.7
200 - 299	120	24.0	1,152	17.5
300 - 399	59	11.8	742	11.2
400 - 499	44	8.7	504	7.6
500+	83	16.5	736	11.1
<b>Benefits</b>				
\$ 10 or less	94	18.8	512	7.8
11 - 50	139	27.7	840	12.7
51 - 100	132	26.3	1,836	27.8
101 - 200	97	19.4	2,155	32.7
201 - 300	29	5.8	999	15.1
301+	10	2.0	258	3.9
Total(b)	501	100.0	6,600	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

(b)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 51

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL-AGE  
CHILDREN, AND NO CHILDREN

	Households		Benefits	
	Number	Percent	Value	Percent
	(000)		(000)	
Households With Children(a)	4,344	61.2	\$703,359	82.4
Households With School-Age Children(b)	3,367	47.4	\$570,342	66.8
Households With No Children	2,757	38.8	\$150,058	17.6
Total(c)	7,101	100.0	\$853,417	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(b)Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

(c)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 52

AVERAGE VALUE OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, AND  
NO CHILDREN

	Households With Children(a)	Households With School- Age Children(b)	Households With No Children
Gross Monthly Income	\$481	\$507	\$315
Net Monthly Income	\$284	\$308	\$150
Total Deduction(c)	\$211	\$212	\$191
Countable Resources	\$45	\$49	\$112
Monthly Benefit	\$162	\$169	\$54
Household Size	3.7	3.9	1.2
Certification Period	8.8	8.7	10.1

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(b) Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

(c) Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

TABLE 53

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL-AGE  
CHILDREN, AND NO CHILDREN FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households With:	Households With Children(c)		Households With School-Age Children(d)		Households With No Children	
	Number (000)	Percent(e)	Number (000)	Percent(e)	Number (000)	Percent(e)
Zero Gross Income	174	4.0	132	3.9	251	9.1
Zero Net Income	543	12.5	386	11.5	777	28.2
Minimum Benefit(b)	28	0.7	26	0.8	572	20.7
Elderly(a)	136	3.1	128	3.8	1,302	47.2
School-Age Children(d)	3,367	77.5	3,367	100.0	0	0.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(b)Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

(c)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(d)Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

(e)Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

TABLE 54

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS  
FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN, SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, AND NO CHILDREN

	Households With Children(a)		Households With School-Age Children(b)		Households With No Children	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
Households Size						
1 - 2	1,035	23.8	603	17.9	2,688	97.5
3 - 4	2,273	52.3	1,771	52.6	66	2.4
5+	1,036	23.8	992	29.5	4	0.1
Gross Income						
None	174	4.0	132	3.9	251	9.1
\$ 1 - 99	61	1.4	37	1.1	81	2.9
100 - 199	267	6.1	192	5.7	327	11.8
200 - 299	621	14.3	417	12.4	405	14.7
300 - 399	777	17.9	554	16.4	928	33.7
400 - 499	675	15.5	504	15.0	447	16.2
500+	1,769	40.7	1,531	45.5	319	11.6
Net Income						
None	543	12.5	386	11.5	777	28.2
\$ 1 - 99	594	13.7	421	12.5	465	16.9
100 - 199	773	17.8	530	15.8	509	18.5
200 - 299	699	16.1	553	16.4	573	20.8
300 - 399	532	12.2	417	12.4	270	9.8
400 - 499	427	9.8	352	10.5	121	4.4
500+	775	17.9	707	21.0	43	1.6
Benefits						
\$ 10 or less	34	0.8	30	0.9	572	20.7
11 - 50	235	5.4	170	5.1	744	27.0
51 - 100	752	17.3	542	16.1	1,215	44.1
101 - 200	2,046	47.1	1,512	44.9	207	7.5
201 - 300	1,010	23.3	856	25.4	18	0.6
301+	267	6.1	257	7.6	2	0.1
Total(c)	4,344	100.0	3,367	100.0	2,757	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(b)Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

(c)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.



TABLE 55

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND BENEFITS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT AFDC INCOME

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (000)	Percent	Value (000)	Percent
Households With AFDC Income	2,697	38.0	\$421,689	49.4
Households With No AFDC Income	4,404	62.0	\$431,728	50.6
Total(a)	7,101	100.0	\$853,417	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

TABLE 56

AVERAGE VALUE OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT AFDC INCOME

	Households With AFDC Income	Households With No AFDC Income
Gross Monthly Income	\$457	\$392
Net Monthly Income	\$273	\$207
Total Deduction(a)	\$189	\$212
Countable Resources	\$27	\$99
Monthly Benefit	\$156	\$98
Household Size	3.5	2.2
Certification Period (months)	9.2	9.3

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix C). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

TABLE 57

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT  
AFDC INCOME FOR SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Households With:	Households With AFDC Income		Households With No AFDC Income	
	Number (000)	Percent(e)	Number (000)	Percent(e)
Zero Gross Income	0	0.0	425	9.7
Zero Net Income	211	7.8	1,109	25.2
Minimum Benefit(a)	24	0.9	577	13.1
Elderly(b)	69	2.6	1,369	31.1
Children(c)	2,664	98.8	1,680	38.1
School-Age Children(d)	1,990	73.8	1,377	31.3

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a)Minimum benefit is \$10 for one- and two-person households.

(b)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(c)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(d)Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

(e)Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

TABLE 58

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS ON  
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH AND WITHOUT  
AFDC INCOME

	Households with AFDC Income		Households with No AFDC Income	
	Number (000)	Percent	Number (000)	Percent
<hr/>				
Household Size				
1 - 2	755	28.0	2,968	67.4
3 - 4	1,393	51.6	946	21.5
5+	549	20.4	490	11.1
Gross Income				
None	0	0.0	425	9.7
\$ 1 - 99	19	0.7	123	2.8
100 - 199	188	7.0	405	9.2
200 - 299	468	17.4	558	12.7
300 - 399	605	22.4	1,100	25.0
400 - 499	491	18.2	631	14.3
500+	925	34.3	1,162	26.4
Net Income				
None	211	7.8	1,109	25.2
\$ 1 - 99	437	16.2	621	14.1
100 - 199	575	21.3	708	16.1
200 - 299	483	17.9	789	17.9
300 - 399	328	12.2	474	10.8
400 - 499	266	9.9	282	6.4
500+	396	14.7	422	9.6
Benefits				
\$ 10 or less	26	1.0	579	13.2
11 - 50	142	5.3	837	19.0
51 - 100	466	17.3	1,501	34.1
101 - 200	1,372	50.9	881	20.0
201 - 300	573	21.2	456	10.3
301+	118	4.4	150	3.4
Total(a)	2,697	100.0	4,404	100.0

Source: Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

(a) Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Table 59

Comparison of Average Value of Selected  
Characteristics for August 1981-Summer 1986

	August 1981	August 1982	August 1983	August 1984	Summer 1985	Summer 1986
Gross Monthly Income	\$349	\$356	\$379	\$390	\$398	\$417
Net Monthly Income	\$196	\$205	\$224	\$229	\$226	\$232
Total Deduction(a)	\$169	\$159	\$170	\$177	\$191	\$203
Countable Resources	\$ 62	\$ 58	\$ 54	\$ 58	\$ 63	\$ 71
Monthly Benefit	\$103	\$105	\$116	\$114	\$116	\$120
Household Size	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7

(a) Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. Deductions are those to which households are entitled. Some deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Sources: August 1981-Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 60

Comparison of Percentage of Households with  
Selected Characteristics for August 1981-Summer 1986

Households with:	Percent of all households					
	August 1981	August 1982	August 1983	August 1984	August 1985	Summer 1986
Zero Gross Income	7.3	7.8	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.0
Zero Net Income	18.7	18.9	16.4	17.5	19.8	18.6
Minimum Benefit	5.6	7.5	7.5	9.6	8.5	8.5
Elderly(a)	20.9	19.6	20.2	22.1	21.4	20.2
Children(b)	56.4	58.2	63.8	60.9	59.2	61.2
School-Age Children(c)	41.5	44.2	49.2	47.3	46.3	47.4

(a)Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

(b)Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

(c)Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Sources: August 1981-Summer 1986 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.



Appendix A--Poverty Income Guidelines for 1986 (a)

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 5,364	\$ 6,708	\$ 6,180
2	7,248	9,060	8,340
3	9,120	11,400	10,500
4	11,004	13,752	12,660
5	12,888	16,104	14,820
6	14,760	18,456	16,980
7	16,644	20,808	19,140
8(b)	18,528	23,160	21,300

(a)Annual income for nonfarm families.

(b)For households with more than eight members, add \$1,884 in the continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands; \$2,352 in Alaska; and \$2,160 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Source: Office of Management and Budget.

Appendix B--Maximum Allowable Net Monthly Food Stamp Income  
Eligibility Standards in Summer 1986 (a)

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 447	\$ 559	\$ 515
2	604	755	695
3	760	950	875
4	917	1,146	1,055
5	1,074	1,342	1,235
6	1,230	1,538	1,415
7	1,387	1,734	1,595
8(b)	1,544	1,930	1,775

(a) The food stamp net income standards are equal to the OMB poverty income guidelines (appendix A) divided by 12, rounded up to the nearest dollar.

(b) For households with more than eight members, add \$157 in the continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands; \$196 in Alaska; and \$180 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

Appendix C--Value of Standard and Maximum Dependent Care and  
Excess Shelter Deductions in Continental  
United States and Outlying Areas in Summer 1986

Area	Standard	Dependent Care (a)	Excess Shelter (b)
Continental United States	\$ 98	\$160	\$147
Alaska	168	160	256
Hawaii	139	160	210
Guam	197	160	179
Virgin Islands	86	160	109

(a)Limit on dependent care deduction for households with no member age 60 or more or no disabled member. For elderly/disabled households, the maximum dependent care deduction which could be claimed was equivalent to the maximum amount nonelderly/nondisabled households could take for their excess shelter deduction (see the maximum values for the excess shelter deduction in this table).

(b)Limit on excess shelter deduction for households with no member age 60 or more or no disabled member.

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

Appendix D--Value of Maximum Coupon Allotment (Thrifty Food Plan) in  
Continental United States and Outlying Areas in Summer 1986

Household Size	Continental United States(a)	Alaska (c)				Hawaii	Guam	Virgin Islands
		Rural I	Rural II	Nenana	Urban			
1	\$ 80	\$135	\$164	\$158	\$111	\$124	\$118	\$103
2	147	247	301	290	204	228	217	189
3	211	354	431	415	293	327	311	271
4	268	450	547	527	372	415	395	345
5	318	534	650	626	442	493	470	409
6	382	641	780	752	530	592	564	491
7	422	708	862	831	586	654	623	543
8 (b)	483	810	985	949	670	748	712	621

(a)Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

(b)For households with more than eight members, add \$60 in the continental United States, \$94 in Hawaii, \$89 in Guam, and \$78 in the Virgin Islands for each additional person. In Alaska, add the following amounts for each area:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rural I	\$101
Rural II	123
Nenana	119
Urban	84

(c)Due to the unusual nature of Alaskan terrain and climate, areas outside major urban centers are less accessible to food distributors. Therefore, the value of the maximum coupon allotment accounts for this added expense by splitting the Thrifty Food Plan into four separate components: rural I, rural II, Nenana, and urban.

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

## Appendix E--Source and Reliability of Estimates

### Background

The summary tables are derived from a sample of households selected for review as part of the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS). This system is an ongoing review of food stamp household circumstances to determine (1) if households are eligible to participate or are receiving the correct coupon allotment, or (2) if household participation is correctly denied or terminated. The system is based on a national probability sample of approximately 70,000 participating food stamp households and a somewhat smaller number of denials and terminations every 12 months. The national sample of participating households is stratified by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Annual State samples range from a minimum of 300 to a maximum of 2,400 reviews depending on the size of the State's caseload. State agencies select an independent sample each month that is generally proportional to the size of the monthly participating caseload.<sup>1</sup> The survey reported here relies primarily on the summer 1986 Food Stamp IQCS sample of participating households. To ensure an adequate sampling size, both July and August samples comprised the data which was collected for the summer of 1986.

### Target Universe

The target universe of this study included all participating households (active cases) subject to quality control review in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The summer 1986 participating caseload in Guam and the Virgin Islands was also sampled, but these results are not included in the tabulations.

While almost all participating food stamp households are included in the target universe, certain types not amenable to QC review are not. Specifically, the active universe includes all households receiving food stamps during a review period except those in which the participants died or moved outside the State, received benefits by a disaster certification authorized by FNS, received benefits under a 60-day continuation of certification, were under investigation for Food Stamp Program fraud (including those with pending fraud hearings), and/or were appealing a notice of adverse action when the review date falls within the

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<sup>1</sup>Several States have integrated the Food Stamp, AFDC, and Medicaid QC sample selection and review process. In these States, monthly sample size is not necessarily proportional to monthly caseload size.

time period covered by continued participation pending a hearing, or received restored benefits in accordance with the FNS-approved State manual but who were otherwise ineligible. The sampling unit within the active universe is the food stamp household as defined in an FNS-approved State manual.

### Weighting

The tabulations in this report are based on a total of 11,010 valid observations. The sample findings have been weighted by the number of participating households as reported by the FNS Management Information Division. The case record weights of several States were adjusted to reflect the disproportionate integrated QC sample designs in those States.

### Income Decision Rule

In preparing this report, gross income was determined by aggregating income from various sources received by individual household members, as opposed to relying on the transcribed gross income amount. This "calculated" gross income was, in turn, used to compute other variables, e.g., net income and monthly allotment. The mean values for selected variables broken out by whether the calculated or reported gross income variable was used are presented in table 1.

### Comparison to Participation Data

The following table presents a comparison of the preliminary estimates to aggregate program participation data (excluding Guam and the Virgin Islands):

	<u>Program data</u>	<u>Summer 1986 IQCS sample</u>
Number of households <sup>2</sup>	7,101,862	7,101,232
Number of participants	19,069,048	19,385,357
Value of benefits	\$860,420,038	\$853,417,117
Average household size	2.69	2.73
Average bonus per person	\$45.12	\$44.02

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<sup>2</sup>This estimate was constrained by an adjustment to the sample weights.



Table 1--Comparison of Mean Calculated and Reported Values for Selected Variables of Participating Households

	All households	Households with		
		<u>Earnings</u>	<u>Elderly</u>	<u>Children</u> <u>Disabled</u>
(dollars \$)				
Gross Income				
Calculated	417	609	420	481
Reported	415	603	417	480
Net Income				
Calculated	232	347	242	284
Reported	225	337	231	277
Total Deduction				
Calculated	203	273	185	211
Reported	203	268	187	210
Benefit				
Calculated	120	142	48	162
Reported	121	141	49	162
(percentages %)				
Percent of Zero Gross				
Calculated	6.0	0.0	0.9	4.0
Reported	5.9	0.1	0.9	3.8
Percent of Zero Net				
Calculated	18.6	13.4	6.9	12.5
Reported	19.3	14.1	7.1	13.0
Percent of Minimum Benefit				
Calculated	8.5	3.4	29.8	0.7
Reported	7.5	3.2	26.2	0.6

Source: July-August 1985 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

## Completion Rates

Failure to complete reviews for all cases selected subject to review can bias the sample results if the characteristics of unreviewed households are significantly different from those of reviewed households. While there are no direct measures of such differences, the ratio of valid observations to sample cases selected for review provides an indication of the magnitude of any potential bias. The expected number of cases subject to review in the sample (equal to one-sixth of all cases reported as subject to review during October 1985-September 1986), the number of valid observations, and the estimated completion rates are shown below:

	50 States and D.C.
Number of cases selected subject to review	11,349
Number of cases completed	11,010
Estimated completion rate	97.0%

This rate compares very favorably with other surveys of this nature.

(For Optional State Use)

## INTEGRATED REVIEW SCHEDULE

**PRIVACY ACT/PAPERWORK NOTICE ACT:** This report is required under provisions of 45 CFR 205.40 (AFDC), 7 CFR 275.14 (Food Stamp), and 42 CFR 431.800 (Medicaid). This information is needed for the review of State performance in determining recipient eligibility. The information is used to determine State compliance, and failure to report may result in a finding of non-compliance.

### I. REVIEW SUMMARY

1. Review Number	1a. Case Number	2. State and Local Agency Codes	3. Sample Month and Year	4. Stratum	5. Review Type
6. Disposition		7. Review Findings		8. Amount of Error	
AFDC/ADULT	FS	MA	AFDC/ADULT	FS	

### II. CASE INFORMATION

9. Most Recent Opening	9a. Prior Assistance	10. Most Recent Action	11. Type of Action	12. No. of Case Members	13. Liquid Assets	14. Real Property (Excl. Home)	15. Countable Vehicle Assets	16. Other Non-Liquid Assets
ADULT								
AFDC								
FS								
MA								

### CASE INFORMATION - AFDC/ADULT

17. Monthly Payment Standard	18. Sample Month's Payment	19. Restricted Payment Status	20. Unborn Child	21. Shelter Arrangement	22. Gross Countable Income	23. Work-Related Expenses	24. Child or Dependent Care Disregard	25. First \$30 and 1/3 of Remainder	26. Net Countable Income

### CASE INFORMATION - FOOD STAMP

27. Case Classification	28. Months in Certif. Period	29. Coupon Allotment	30. Exped. Service	31. Auth. Rep.	32. Gross Countable Income	33. Earned Income Deduction	34. Medical Cost	35. Shelter Cost	36. Dependent Care Cost	37. Net Countable Income

### CASE INFORMATION - MEDICAID

38. Medical Expenses Used to Meet Spenddown Amount	39. Gross Countable Income	40. Net Countable Income

### III. DETAILED PERSON - LEVEL INFORMATION

[illegible]

**V. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AND TYPE AND AMOUNT OF INCOME**

[illegible]

REVIEW NUMBER

## V. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

62. Eligibility Coverage Codes	
Agency	OC
<div></div>	<div></div>
63. Initial Case Eligibility Status	<div></div>
64. Initial Case Liability Error	<div></div>
65. Amount of Excess Resources	<div></div>

## VI. DETAILED ERROR FINDINGS

[illegible]

	Counted	Not Counted
76. Ineligible Persons with Federal Matching (AFDC Overpayment Case)		



## VII. PAYMENT REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

77. Dollar Amount of Paid Claims	78. Final Case Elig. Status	79. Revised Initial Case Liability Error	80. Spend-down Months	81. Total Claims Used to Offset Initial LU Errors	82. Final Dollar Amount of Case Liability Errors	83. Final Dollar Amount of Case Eligibility Errors

**VIII. OPTIONAL - FOR STATE SYSTEMS ONLY**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_







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